This weekend's weather:
Saturday: Rain Showers
Sunday: Rain Showers

On Campus:
"Glen Cleanup "
Root Glen 4 pm

The Spectator

Hamilton College
Clinton, New York
April 21, 2000

Volume XXXX
Number 22
Covering Hamilton since 1899

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"And I'll tell it and
think it and speak it and
breathe it,
And reflect it from the
mountain
so all souls can see it...."
-Bob Dylan

Murphy Removed from Athletic Director Position

Tobin provides few answers about his motives in decision

By Peter Ringel '01
MANAGING EDITOR

Hamilton College President Eugene Tobin announced last week that Athletic Director Tom Murphy would be removed from that position effective July 1, 2002.

There are so many questions that need to be answered regarding this mind-boggling decision. Why did Tobin force Murphy to leave his post as AD come July of 2002? Did Tobin alone make this decision?

At a time when Hamilton is enjoying such great success in athletics, why would Tobin replace the man who is most responsible for that success?

Numerous other questions come to mind, but let's assume for a moment that Tobin genuinely believed "it was time [for a change to be made]" (as he has repeatedly said to students, faculty, and administrators since he made the announcement), and that he has the discretion to remove Murphy from the Athletic Director position.

However, given Murphy's record and service to Hamilton, a detailed explanation should be forthcoming from the President.

But Tobin has repeatedly stood by his original statement regarding the decision to force Murphy to step down.

"Hamilton is grateful for the many years of dedication and service Tom Murphy has provided to the college and its student-athletes," Tobin said in a release dated April 12th.

That is not acceptable. Not to Murphy. Not to members of the physical education department. Not to many alumni. Not to students. Not to faculty. No new announcement is forthcoming, but boy would it be refreshing.

"I'm disappointed that Coach Murphy will not be the AD in two years," said women's hockey coach Sue Reece. "I'm disgusted in the way in which it was handled."

If the situation was such that Tobin wanted to replace Murphy-fine. But there has to be a reason. Or maybe a few reasons.

Are we to believe that Tobin, whether on his sabbatical last semester or over the last couple of months, suddenly believed that the Athletic Department would be better off with someone other than Murphy chairing it? Maybe he did.

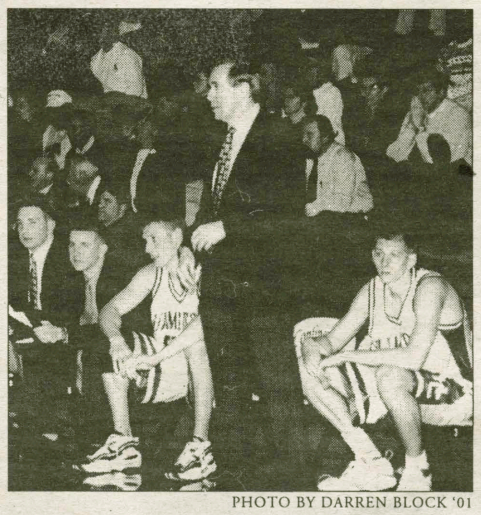

PHOTO BY DARREN BLOCK '01

Murphy will continue to coach the men's basketball team next year.

But that seems like an incredibly bad decision. And even if we give Tobin the benefit of the doubt and assume he wanted to replace Murphy, why would he not consult members of Murphy's own department to get their input? This is unprecedented.

"The lack of process for a position of this magnitude at Hamilton is embarrassing and raises serious questions," said Matt Stowell, who has served as assistant men's basketball coach for four years and is also a 1995 graduate of Hamilton.

Williams College serves as a perfect example of a school that is currently looking for a new Athletic Director. Bob Peck, Williams' AD, is retiring and both an internal and a national search were conducted.

Williams has since narrowed the field to four candidates to fill the AD position.

"The fact that nobody [in athletics] was consulted is disrespectful to the entire department," added men's lacrosse coach Kevin Gilmartin.

Please see ***Murphy Removed*** *page 20*

Housing Lottery: It's Always a Big Adventure

By Ashley Lee '02
NEWS WRITER

Thirteen days. Not even a full two weeks between the distribution of housing lottery numbers and the actual Housing Lottery. What are we supposed to do during those thirteen days? Think? Plan? Sweat it out? Will some decide that they are going to move into a tent in the quad?

Area Coordinator and Residence Hall Council Advisor Bryan McGrath and Residential Life Staff Assistant Nancy Perkins have some words of advice about the different housing options and the selection process.

First, they focused on the Eels House as the best new housing option. It is expected to house up to 65 students and had been likened in form and structure to the currently coveted Ferguson house. Perkins, who recently went on a tour of the house, said that the communal areas were going to be beautiful, as were the doubles and singles. The house will be smoke-free. Residential Life believes that the extra 65 rooms in Eels will also eliminate any chance of another housing crunch.

Another interesting change is the Specialty Housing Lottery. The details of the lottery are explained on page four of the Housing Lottery Information booklet, but briefly, the Specialty Housing Lottery is for all smoke- and substance-free housing, houses on special meal plans, and quiet housing. The Specialty Housing Lottery will be held as part of the General Housing Lottery, but in a different part of the barn.

There are some other important changes in the housing lottery. DKE is now completely substance free, and there are no longer two-pulls for singles on the dark side, but there is the option of co-ed pulls (as long as rooms are filled with people of the same sex). Also, unlike previously stated, there will be no first-years in Carnegie. The student response to the housing change in Carnegie was so strong that Res. Life has decided instead to add four quads to South instead of adding them to the fourth floor of Carnegie.

Next, McGrath and Perkins addressed the rising sophomore class. They realize that the Housing Lottery can be confusing, especially the first time.

McGrath and Perkins stress that, for sophomores, no matter how bad you think your number is, you should go to the lottery. They explained that many people do not show up when their number is called, so a bad number can be higher on the list than previously expected. There is a summer waiting list, through which people can get placed into extra rooms, and sometimes get great housing. Or, find an upperclassman or a friend with a good number and have them pull you in.

Finally, on the day of the lottery, everyone should be sure to bring his or her number and ID card. McGrath and Perkins advise having a back-up plan to your first choice, so you are not stuck scrambling for a suitable option.

PHOTO BY DARREN BLOCK'01

The snow has melted and spring has finaly sprung up on the Hill

INSIDE

An Athlete Speaks Out
Reaction to Athletic Director Tom Murphy's forced resignation from a well respected Hamilton athlete . **Page 6**

Return of the Worms
Ever wonder why all those nasty worms come out when it rains? Our Science writer has all the answers. **Page 13**

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Levitt Center a Hit

By James P. DuVernay '03
NEWS WRITER

Tucked away in the far reaches of Hamilton College's Kirner-Johnson Building lies a center of growing renown and import.

The Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center sponsors a wide array of programs and initiatives that benefit members of the Hamilton Community and the larger community of Oneida County as well.

As stated in its mission statement, the Levitt Center strives to "strengthen and promote the role played by public affairs in the liberal arts education of every student at Hamilton."

More than simply a physical entity, since its inception 10 years ago, the Levitt Center has actively pursued activities that "enhance resources and education in the field of public affairs," according to Associate Professor of Government Philip Klinkner. Klinkner also serves as director of the Levitt Council that oversees the Levitt Center.

Levitt-sponsored projects typically involve hands-on research by students that often extends to real-life situations beyond the confines of the college setting. In 1996, the Levitt Center joined with the Oneida County to establish the Resource Center for Human Services. Professor Judith Owens-Manley acts as the research coordinator to identify and develop mutually beneficial opportunities involving Hamilton and the county. This collaboration has resulted in invaluable hands-on experience for Hamilton students while providing outside public agencies with more effective and efficient research services. Past and current projects have involved the State Department of Aging, the Department of Transportation, and the Village of Clinton.

Klinkner highlighted this symbiotic relationship as one of the finest aspects of the Levitt Center.

"Students respond well to what they know is meaningful work and not just research that will gather dust on a professor's bookshelf," he noted.

Please see ***Inside the Levitt Center****, p 2*

Inside the Levitt Center

continued from ***Be Levit or not****, page 1*

Among the most successful program has been the Levitt Scholars program. Under this program, Hamilton students pursue independent research projects. After completing a course in communications to hone their public speaking skills, the students offer interactive presentations at area high schools. Since its inception in 1993 with 12 students, the program has expanded behind the strength of enthusiastic reviews from students and teachers alike.

Sally Carmen, Administrative Assistant for the Levitt Center, oversees the logistics of the program and noted that "we have a core group of [high school] teachers supporting the program, and a range of majors represented... the response has been very positive--students like it, teachers like it."

Last year's group featured 26 Scholars from 15 different majors. Nearly 40 high schools, some as far away as Baltimore, MD, and Philadelphia, PA, requested presentations. Carolyn Schmidt, a Social Studies teacher at Chenango Forks High School, exclaimed that the "[Hamilton] speakers are always well-prepared, interesting, and present valuable role models for high school students."

Similar success has accompanied other Levitt Center initiatives. Like the Scholars program, the Alumni Fellows Program continues to grow. Alumni Liaison Jennifer Irvine '00 explained that the program "is designed to harness the experience and expertise of Hamilton's alumni and link these with students working on academic projects." Irvine has compiled a growing database of successful alumni who volunteer their time or talents to help current Hamiltonians.

The Levitt Center also selects a yearly issue in public affairs as a guiding theme for debate and discussion. For the 1999-2000 academic year, the Levitt Center has focused on "religion and public affairs." A variety of well-known speakers are arranged to support the theme.

The actual office space occupied by the Levitt sits in a far corner of KJ, just adjacent to Babbitt Residence Hall and Minor Field. It provides students with a library of public affairs and current events resources, including a daily Wall St. Journal and New York Times, political and economic magazines, and other reference items. Information Technology Service maintains five computer workstations, with two scanners and a laser printer. Other amenities include a large television, a VCR, a worktable, and several comfortable seating options.

The Levitt Center houses individual office space for Ms. Owens-Manly and Ms. Carmen. A glass-enclosed conference room provides space for private study or meetings, as well as offering unparalleled, breathtaking views of Minor Field. Many students take advantage of the center's resources or use it for quiet, diligent studying. Carmen suggests that "there must be a certain ambiance" about the Levitt Center that attracts students.

Klinkner has occupied the position of director since the fall of 1998. He works with the Levitt Council to direct policies, approve funding, and implement programs. Current membership consists of professors from the Government, Economics, Sociology, History, English, and Philosophy departments.

Arthur Levitt was regarded as one of the most popular and effective administrators in the history of New York. He served as State Comptroller for 24 years. In 1979, Hamilton presented him with an honorary doctorate of laws

SA Candidates

Appeals Board

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Class of 2001

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Joshua Jackson

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Brendan McCormick
Julie Gennus
Manal Ataya
Hunter Kurtz
Seth O'Bryan

Honor Court:
Erik Johnson
Anthony Loeffler

Class of 2002

Judicial Board:
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Frank Kelleher
Dave Trovato
Amanda Mereau

Honor Court:
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Jared M. Johnson
Dan Posternak

Representatives:
Ali Langlais
Timothy B. Sapir

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Class of 2001 President
Steve Guditus
Class of 2002 President
Ray Ash
Class of 2002 Sec-Tres
Milagros Ramirez
Class of 2003 President
Maurice "Mo" Michaane
Class of 2003 Sec-Tres
Ben Schuster

Class of 2003

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Julian Scurci
Anna Crowe
Fletcher Malcom

Honor Court:
Morgan Selzer
Alison Conway
Schuyler Gellatly

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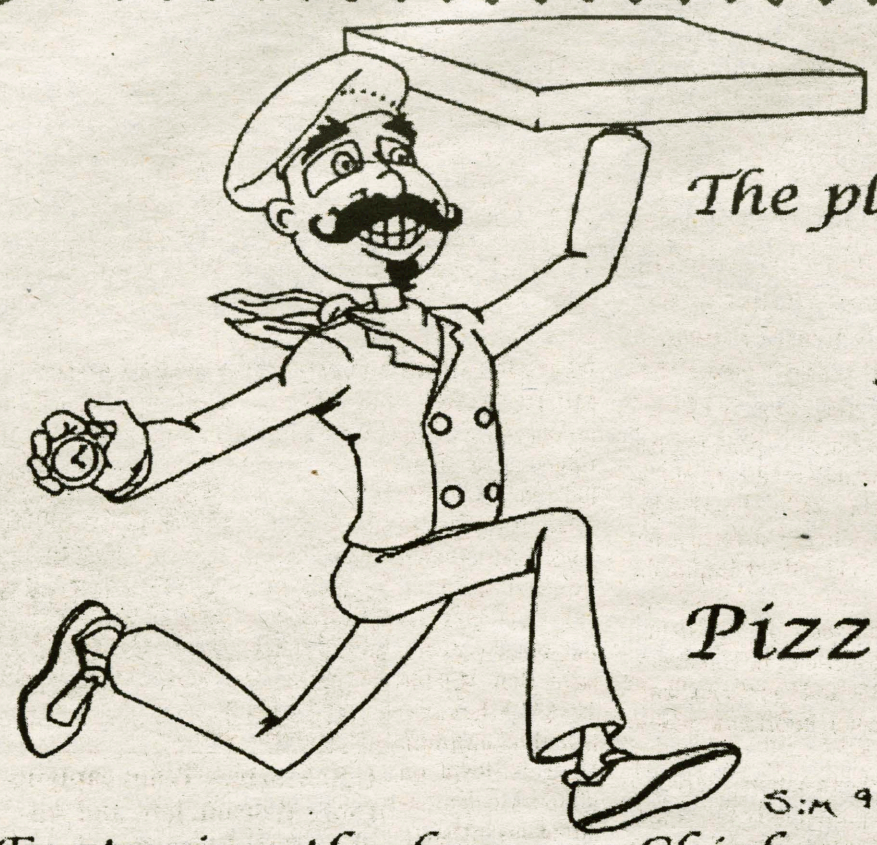

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IVORY TOWERS

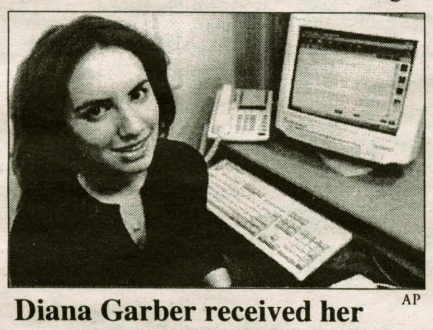
THE NEWS AT COLLEGES ACROSS THE LAND

Compiled By Christopher LaRosa '03

Colleges accept by e-mail

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — Northwestern University is responding to successful applicants with a message attuned to the information generation: You've got mail.

Northwestern is one of a few universities around the country sending quick e-mails to prospective students congratulating them on their admission. For some, the messages are welcome relief to weeks of nail-biting over their applications.



AP

Diana Garber received her admission notice from Northwestern University, one of the few universities across the country sending e-mail notes to prospective students congratulating them on their admission.

"It's very high-tech," said Diana Garber, a 17-year-old high school senior from East Hills, N.Y. "It made it easier because people found out early. They weren't stressed out."

Garber gained early acceptance to Northwestern, so her e-mail was a formality. But for many of her friends, she said, the notes ended worries over whether they would receive a thick envelope — with details of acceptance — or a thin denial letter.

Rebecca Dixon, associate provost for enrollment at Northwestern, said the school sent e-mail congratulations to about 4,000 students. This marks the first year that all accepted applicants who had provided e-mail addresses got the notes before their packets of admission information.

The e-mail messages were meant to follow formal acceptance letters sent through regular mail. But in some cases, the electronic missives beat the postal service.

Education Secretary urges study abroad

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Education Department is urging lawmakers and colleges to promote international education — U.S. college students going overseas and foreign students studying here. Increasing those numbers is essential to future global cooperation and understanding, said Education Secretary Richard Riley.

"Many more American college students need to see the world with a new set of eyes. And the best way for them to see the world as it really is, is to study overseas," Riley said, urging a stronger national policy on international education. "The United States has much to learn, as well as gain, by such an engagement with the world."

Currently, 9 percent of U.S. college students — about 114,000 — head abroad each year to study in foreign universities. Riley told an audience of diplomats and educators at the French Embassy on Wednesday that he wanted to at least double that number.

At the urging of the Education and State departments, President Clinton on Wednesday issued an executive memorandum directing federal agencies to promote study abroad by U.S. students with scholarships and other programs.

Riley called for more funding for various international efforts: educating U.S. youngsters in foreign languages, sending more minority students to study overseas, enlisting volunteers for the Peace Corps, starting e-mail exchanges with K-12 schools in other countries, and examining how and why other countries outperform the United States in math and science.

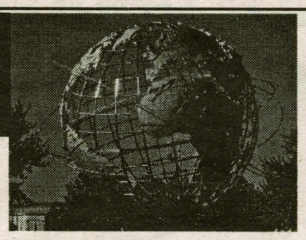
Tommy Lee Jones warns against acting

(U-WIRE) CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Tommy Lee Jones '69 brought his brand of caustic Southern humor back to Harvard Friday afternoon, advising a group of theatrically-inclined students Friday to avoid at all costs becoming actors.

Speaking at the American Repertory Theater on Brattle Street, Jones, who roomed with Vice President Al Gore '69, said he might not pick the performing arts had he the chance to change careers.

"If you have anything else you can do other than acting, do it," he said repeatedly throughout the hour-long question and answer session, emphasizing that acting didn't have the security and stability of other professions.

WORLD NEWS



Compiled By Christopher LaRosa '03

Zimbabwe white-owned farms rampaged

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Nearly 200 attackers rampaged through a white-owned farm Thursday in northern Zimbabwe, beating dogs to death and burning down workers' homes a day after a leader of the farm occupations promised to end hostilities.

The attack was the latest violence by armed squatters who have occupied nearly 1,000 white-owned farms across Zimbabwe over the past two months. In the past week, two farmers have been killed, six others have been abducted and beaten, and several farmhouses set ablaze.

Thursday's rampage came after occupation leaders had met with farm leaders and President Robert Mugabe and said they would end the violence, although they said they would not leave the farms.

Mugabe, who inflamed the situation earlier this week by calling white farmers "enemies" of the state, has been accused by opposition leaders of using the land dispute to drum up political support ahead of nationwide elections expected in May.

The white farmers are considered supporters of the Movement for Democratic Change, an opposition party with support far beyond Zimbabwe's 70,000 whites.

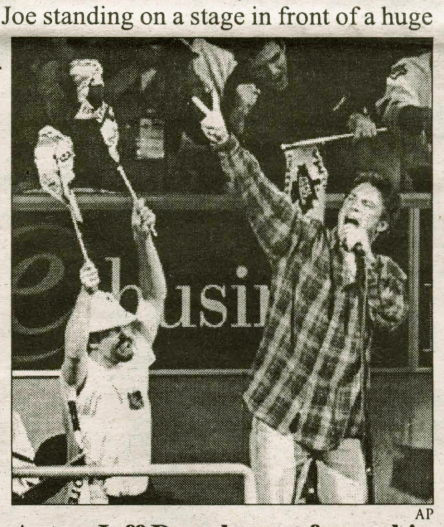
Canadian ad sparks national pride

TORONTO (AP) — A Canadian everyman stands before a maple leaf flag and rants about igloos, blubber and hockey — a formula that has tapped Canada's patriotism and turned a beer commercial into a national sensation.

The ad has sparked standing ovations in movie theaters and hockey arenas, along with front-page newspaper coverage, by pumping Canadians' pride over what distinguishes them from the rest of the world — especially their neighbors to the south.

Nicknamed "The Rant," the ad that began running a month ago features a tousle-haired young man in a lumberjack shirt and jeans — dubbed Joe Canadian by the ad's creators.

It begins with Joe standing on a stage in front of a huge screen filled with the red maple leaf of the national flag.



AP

Actor Jeff Douglas performs his "I am Canadian" routine at the Toronto Maple Leafs-Ottawa Senators NHL playoff game in Toronto, Saturday, April 15.

"I'm not a lumberjack, or fur trader," he begins, almost shyly. "I don't live in an igloo, eat blubber or own a dog sled."

With each pronouncement, the backdrop flashes a matching image — Canadian backwoodsmen, an igloo, a man eating blubber, a dog sled. Joe's voice rises with conviction.

"I have a prime minister, not a president. I speak English and French, not American, and I pronounce it 'about,' not 'a-boot,' " he says, a picture of a large rubber wading boot behind him. "I believe in peacekeeping, not policing; diversity, not assimilation; and that the beaver is a proud and noble animal."

Joe is now shouting.

"Canada's the second-largest land mass, the first nation of hockey and the best part of North America," he concludes, arms raised in triumph. "My name is Joe and I am Canadian!"

Quickly resuming his quiet demeanor, he offers a humble "thank you" and is gone.

To Canadians, the character touches a national nerve by setting straight the rest of the world, particularly the bigger and bossy neighbor to the south — not 'sooth,' as the stereotype of a Canadian accent would have it — about their country and themselves.

Philippines hostage rescue planned

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Top military officials Thursday were considering a response to a Muslim extremist group's claim that it has beheaded two hostages.

Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado said that the military and police ``have been preparing" a response to the group Abu Sayyaf, which has been holding 29 hostages for a month in the southern Philippines.

NATIONAL NEWS

Compiled By Christopher LaRosa '03

Poll: Americans want trigger locks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans say they want tougher gun controls, including a big majority who favor a law requiring that guns be sold with trigger locks, an Associated Press poll finds. But people are split on the best way to reduce violence: better enforcement of current laws or passage of tougher ones.

"We need better enforcement," said Jeff Teasdale, a printing plant supervisor from Baraboo, Wis. "I don't think the laws right now are being enforced."

But he also favored the requirement for trigger locks, saying: "It would keep a lot of kids from getting hurt."

Teacher Joyce Bell from Wilmington, Del., who was with her 11-year-old daughter near the Washington Monument on Wednesday, said, "I want new gun laws. There shouldn't be any guns, in my opinion."

The poll found that 42 percent thought stricter enforcement was more likely to cut gun violence, while 33 percent said enacting tougher gun laws was a better approach. Neither option was best for one-fifth of those inthe poll conducted for The AP by ICR of Media, Pa.

The survey reflected a shift from an AP poll taken immediately after the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colo., a year ago Thursday when more people said tougher laws were the answer.

Realtors sue over 'sold' signs ban

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Real estate agents are suing to force the city to lift a civil rights-era ban on the posting of "Sold" signs outside homes — a law that was aimed at countering "white flight" as neighborhoods became integrated.

The 1,500-member Greater Philadelphia Association of Realtors filed the lawsuit in federal court last month after a five-year effort to repeal the law died in the City Council. The lawsuit asks a judge to declare the ban unconstitutional.

"I think we're the last big city with that law on the books and still being enforced," said Kevin Vaughan, executive director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, which supported the ordinance three decades ago and now favors its repeal.

During the tumult of the 1960s, with federal civil rights laws opening up traditionally white neighborhoods to blacks, authorities feared an exodus of whites afraid of falling property values. They said such fears were sometimes fanned by unscrupulous real estate agents trying to get whites to sell out fast — a practice dubbed "blockbusting."

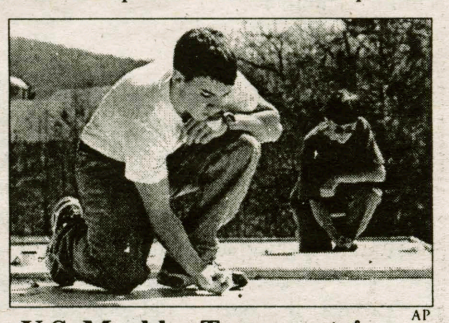
The City Council in 1970 passed an ordinance banning "Sold" signs outside homes.

"'Sold' signs were targeted because that was the clincher for people to kind of say, `Look, the Browns are selling their house because African-Americans are moving in. Maybe we should sell, too, before the property values go down,"' Vaughan said.

Other municipalities such as Willingboro, N.J., went even further, banning both "Sold" and "For Sale" signs.

Marbles dream team seeks world cup

MIDDLETOWN, Md. (AP) — Ben Nelson can do wild things with a marble. With a flip of his wrist and a snap of his fingers, the small ball zooms away. Then, it rolls right back as if tethered by elastic cord.



AP

U.S. Marbles Team captains Doug Watson, left, and Andrew Bunch practice shooting.

That psychs out other players, says Ben 16, the 1998 U.S. boys national champion. He gets down on all fours to demonstrate his mastery of the backspin technique: Twist, flip, snap. Twist, flip, snap.

Ben will need all his tricks Friday in London at the World Marbles Cup when the U.S. team — nine teen-agers and a 35-year-old man — go knuckle-to-knuckle with British men in their 40s and 50s who have honed their skills outside pubs.

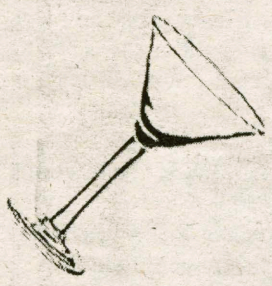
Will the kids be all right? Coach Jeff Kimmell hasn't a doubt. "I think the English team might be a little shy at first, playing with a bunch of kids. But once they lose a couple matches, they'll be shocked at how good the kids are," he said.

Liquid Lunch: VT for good eats, Valley View disappoints

By W.J. Gormley '01
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

I like to eat. I really like to eat. What I really like to eat is meat.

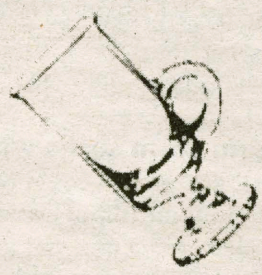
I can't think of a single physical pleasure that stacks up to biting into a rare juicy steak smothered in salt and pepper and A-1 sauce. Well, I can think of one, but talking about that sort of thing got me fired from my previous two jobs here at the Spec (opinion writer and senior staff writer). So now I am a restaurant critic, a frat boy fat boy, the Epicurean and less well educated version of Vincent Canby, doing my best to Sweeny Todd and Technicolor Dream Coat my way through local eateries.



In this sort of endeavor I would normally enlist the help of my Boswell Brett "I'd love fries and a side of grizzle with that" Monroe. But alas, Mr. Monroe has taken flight this week for New York City, where he defends the interests of the people of San Marino on issues ranging from the rights of small land-locked dutchies to protect their own interests to if San Marino is anything more than the Vatican without the Pope and the very cool hats. But I digress. Since Brett "Defender of the Faith" Monroe was absent, I decided that I would take two different dinner companions with me on my assignment.

The first was my girlfriend, Ms. W. We went to the senior formal at Valley View Country Club so I could review the delectable vittles that were to be served and so the Spec could pay for my tickets. The open bar was all this country club had going for it. Without an open bar I don't recommend eating there. The well scotch was Cutty Sark but could have been paint thinner for all I cared by the end of the first hour.

The food was awful. I mean positively disgusting. The salad was yellowing hunks of lettuce arranged in what was almost but not quite carburetor oil. Our appetizer was pasta in some sort of cream sauce that was neither delectable nor identifiable. The main meal was a burnt potato nugget that had more in common with a treat left in the Dunnahm bathroom after Club DU than a viable starch. The carrots were in some sort of a sugar and what seemed to be mud sauce. Two wonderful mystery meat dishes were also served family-style. Pork a la Dunlop and chicken a la Goodyear. Did I mention that there was a ton of hard alcohol to be consumed? Some finer eating establishments discourage smoking and drinking booze because it tends to deaden the pallet. Thankfully, this was not one of those establishments.



Separate from the food, the event itself was kickin' (that's a technical restaurant review term that means fun, enlightening and debaucherious). I was surprised that my class (or former class if you want to be a jerk about it) could get together without beating the crap out of each other and have some fun. This is also a wonderful example of why the administration's claim that eliminating hard alcohol solves social ills is full of it. The formal floated on a sea of Gin, Vodka, Rum and White Zin, yet not a problem arose. It was just a bunch of college kids assembling to have some fun, wear tuxedos, and pretend that the fat kids didn't look like fools on the dance floor. But I digress.

My second foray into upstate New York's gastronomic delights was lunch at the VT. Now

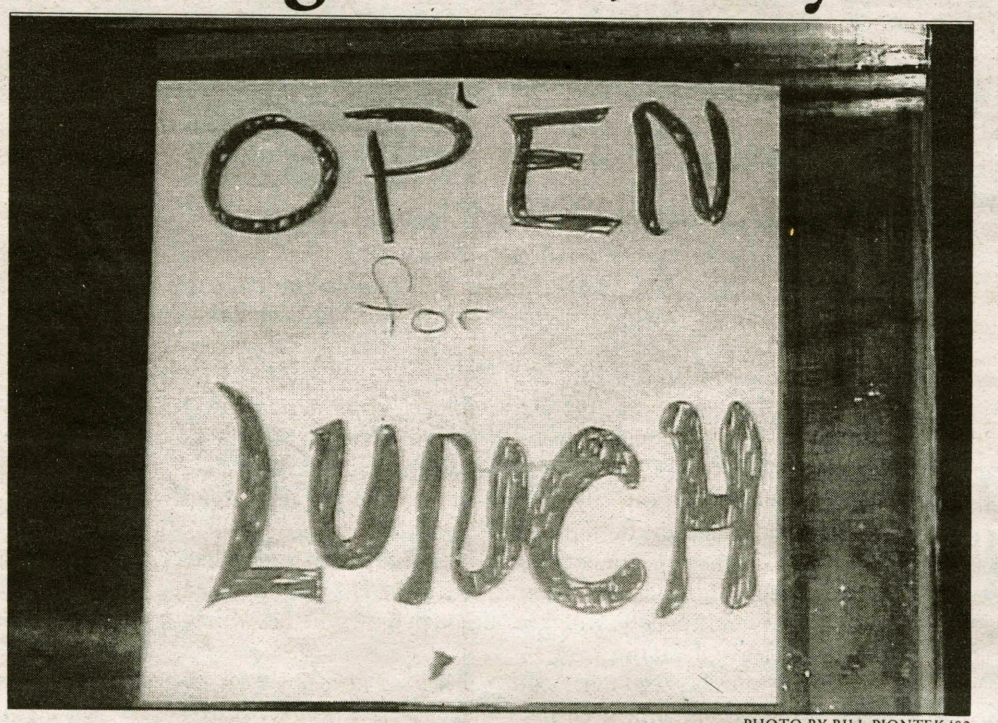


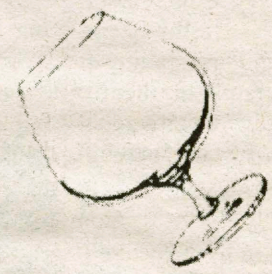
PHOTO BY BILL PIONTEK '02

The Village Tavern opens up for lunch Monday through Friday.

I have never really liked the Village Tavern because it seems to be the preening social climbing capital of the late-night scene. Clinton's version of the 21 club or the Viper Room, it's where the trust fund babies and polo-frocked automatons hang their hats to unwind after a long day of being elitist jerks and slum it up with the girls in black lycra. Although recently I have begun to come around because it's a little more friendly and it's not a dungeon like other local bars, I still plop my butt down on a duct-taped stool at the Rok to inebriate away my troubles. I've never had a problem with the bar, just the crowd.

At lunchtime the crowd disappears and the true charm of the Tavern comes to light. Gracie, the afternoon bartender, remarked, "Its mostly local people, businessmen, and construction workers from up on the hill looking for a quick, hearty meal." In addition, when I want to go out for a noon cocktail, all the Rok has to offer are some chips and beef jerky. While that would normally sustain me, my companion Ms. L wanted something a little less saturated in oil and preservatives.

The lunch itself was fantastic. It was cheap, hearty, and simple. My dining companion, the irrepressible Ms. L., lunched on a cup of creamy tomato soup, an egg salad sandwich, and a 1/2 order of fries, whereas I had a cup of split pea soup and a hot ham'n cheese on a roll. With two sodas, the entire meal came to just ten bucks. Now I didn't just have some soda, but libations were a steal with dollar drafts and two and a half buck cocktails. After a few belts the world was much more shiny and pleasant and I really began to warm up to the VT.



Hilda (or Helga--I got confused toward the end of my mostly liquid lunch) is a wonderfully pleasant grandmother type who makes all of the soups and hot meals fresh every day. According to Gracie, "She comes in every morning at 7 and makes it all. She rents the kitchen from Jack (the VT's owner) and people just come in and ask for some lunch." There is no real set menu although there are some written down specials.

So if you're looking for a cheap and refreshing lunch to go along with your eye opener, go to the VT for some home cooking and tasty beverages. You can say Gorm sent you, but I doubt that will get you very far. Oh, and stay away from country clubs in Utica unless they have a free bar, and *The Spec* will pick up your ticket.

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EDITORIAL

We are not quite finished yet

As we put together this issue, we realize that we have only two more papers to produce before the end of the year. The temptation to throw in the towel, both here at the newspaper office and in our classes, is great, especially for the seniors. Remember though, we're not done yet, but the end is in sight.

Michael Jordan once said that its not just about how hard you play in the game, it's having something in you to finish at the end. Some of us think that Jordan, albeit the best basketball player ever, is not a model citizen. His words are true though. What good is the work we have done so far if the next three weeks will undo it all.

For the first-years, campus life has probably started to make some sort of sense. You've realized that college is very little like *Animal House*, but that there is a good time to be had if you're willing to find it. Work still may not be your forté, but hopefully you know how to do it, and the classes get easier as you figure out how to study better.

For the sophomores, next year may find you abroad. Good. Get away from here and live life from another angle for a while. If you're still considering study abroad, do whatever it takes to do it. It will be one of the best experiences of your life. If travelling off the hill is not on your agenda, then junior year should be a wake up call to the potential of life on the Hill.

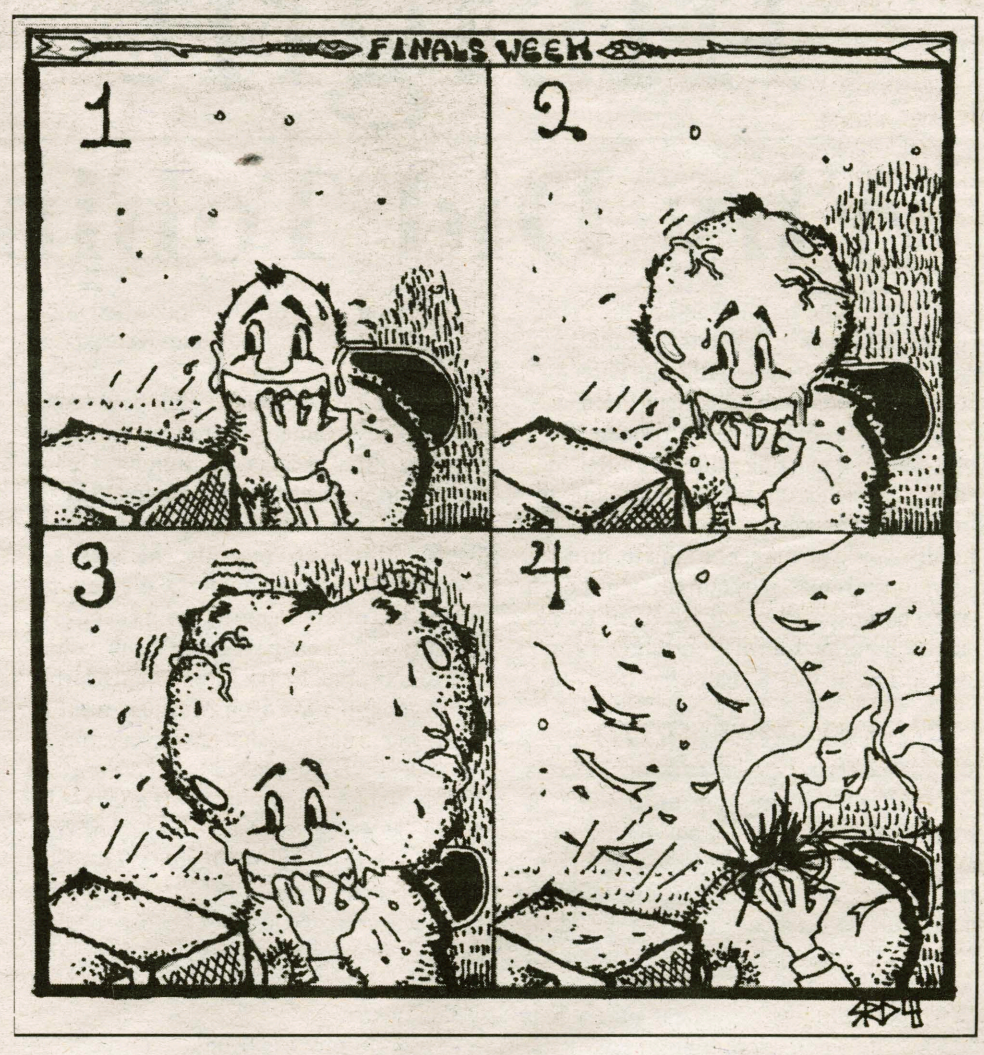
Work can be a good thing. Being smart and getting you work done on time and with quality makes you feel less worthless, and in a strange way, commands the respect of your peers. It's amazing how many college grads who spent all their time partying regret not having taken their work more seriously.

The rising seniors will be the big fish in a very little pond next year, but at this point the appeal of being the big fish usually doesn't mean so much. Most seniors are more concerned with having a good time and surviving thesis work. Three years of Bon Appetit food, inane housing lotteries and a deteriorating social scene have made this bunch salty and weathered.

And then there are the seniors, some of whom are panicked and others who are all set up for next year. Most of you will head to either Boston, Washington DC or New York City, and very few tend to chance life West of the Mississippi. It seems that life begins next year. When you realize that life really began at some point during your years on the Hill, you will think back and hopefully think good thoughts about this place.

But there is time before parting words, three weeks to be exact. The purpose of this editorial is to stress the importance of finishing up strong. That means budgeting time carefully between work and play. Have fun and do what you need to do to hold on to sanity by a string, and put the rest into your work. It is an amazing feeling to get that slip of paper with good grades on it.

College is not all about grades. In fact, it may be minimally about grades. Still, the fact remains that a good GPA gives you broader options when you graduate. If you're not sure what you want to do after school, be it grad school or the corporate world, grades mean options. It's a sad reality that we are extensively judged by how much time we spend on seemingly useless classes, but it is reality. And given all we have here (Richie Havens played here last night- what more can you ask for?) it's really a pretty good reality.



The Spectator

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LETTERS

To the Editor:

Last week I had the absolute worst registration experience ever. At 4:30 I walked over to the Registrar thinking I was going to be the only student crazy enough to be in line for 6pm registration. Little did I know that there were already fifty people ahead of me. By the time 6 o'clock rolled around there were fifty more people in front of me who had friends in line waiting for them. When I finally got to the front of the line to register two of my classes were closed out. Two! I was in line at 4:30!

But, I digress, this is not the issue that I have with registration, nor is it the students fault that there is no one to keep order. My issue with registration, or rather with the school, is that there has got to be a better way than standing in line for hours only to be shut out of class after class. Hamilton College is a liberal arts school, the reason for which I choose to matriculate here, which means that this is a place to grow and study a variety of disciplines. How are we supposed to do these things if there are limits placed on the amount of students who are allowed to participate in a course? I agree that one main point of a liberal arts education is to have a small enough class so that you can develop a direct relationship with the professor. Believe me I love this aspect of the college more than anything, but I think a great professor will make the effort, and succeed, in creating that relationship. Maybe the administration, correct me if I'm wrong, needs to not focus on the student to teacher ratio as much as allowing students to be knowledgeable in different areas of study.

I contacted other liberal arts colleges to see how they ran their registration. Most have their registration via phone or the web. Colgate's process was the one that I found most interesting. Each year is split alphabetically, similar to Hamilton, and each section is given a time to go on-line and a primary pin number to access the web site. Before the web registration the students see their advisors who provide them with yet a secondary pin number, which enables actual course registration. Once everyone has registered, a copy of the student's registration is sent to their advisor, via e-mail, in order for them to know the final schedule results. Students do not need to go to the registrar unless they are having difficulty accessing the site. This solves the time issue. It does not, however, solve the problem of getting shut out of classes continuously. At the moment, the process right now is you are put on the waiting list if you don't get into the class. Well, what happens when you don't get into the class one semester or the following semester? Guess what, you get put on another, new, fresh waiting list. One suggestion that I heard was that the school should use a cumulative waiting list. So that if it just so happens that you are shut out of a class two semesters in a row, you are already on the list. Of course, not everyone will be able to get in the class the following semester, but perhaps, the first five on the waiting list should get in to the class automatically, if they still wish to take the class. I know the administration is going to say that you can always get signed into classes. I wish this were true. Often times students can't find the professor because the professor is either on leave or simply is never in his or her office.

So I ask you, students, professors, administrators, anyone, what can be done about this? Anything? A web site can easily be created at a low cost to the school by our very own Computer Science majors, maybe as a senior project. There has to be a better way to register and I know everyone knows it. So lets do something about it.

Aurelia Fisher '03

Insight & Ideas

Why Did Tobin Fire Murphy?

The headline on the back of the sports page in last week's Spectator should have read "Murphy Fired as Athletic Director" because that is exactly what happened.

Wednesday of last week, President Gene Tobin called a meeting with all athletic department coaches and secretaries and informed everyone that starting in 2002 Tom Murphy would no longer be athletic director and would be replaced by current swim coach Dave Thompson. Everyone was in shock. One coach stormed out of the meeting. People were surprised that a man who had run a

JIMMY MCCARTHY

successful athletic program for the last 21 years was suddenly gone, but people were most surprised that no reason was given. There was no scandal. There was no incident that acted as a catalyst for such a decision. President Tobin simply walked in and said it was time for a change.

There were two coaches, other than Murphy and Thompson, who knew of the decision in advance, they were Associate Director of Athletics Sue Viscomi and Men's Hockey Coach Phil Grady. They were spoken to separately occasion because the President owed them an explanation for the appointment of Coach Thompson. There was no search process. No interviews were granted. Doesn't it seem weird that the Associate Athletic Director does not get a chance to even interview for the position? In many cases, when someone leaves a job their assistant would be the leading candidate to replace them. Moreover, Grady has been part of the Hamilton community for a long time and would be a logical successor, but he also was not even granted an interview. For some reason both of these qualified individuals who have paid their dues were passed over.

Thompson was named athletic director because they wanted to prevent him from pursuing offers at other institutions. Coach Thompson has been at Hamilton for 17 years and boasts a very impressive record as swim coach. However, recently, he was approached by his alma mater, Colgate University, and offered a job as swim coach. He probably would have received a substantial raise to accept such a position. Upon hearing this development, Coach Murphy, went to the President and said that it was very important to keep Thompson because he was such an essential member of the staff and that he should be given a raise in hopes of him refusing the offer from Colgate. Well, obviously the President agreed that Thompson was a very good coach, but he disagreed in the steps that should be taken to keep him hear. Hence, Murphy was fired and replaced by Thompson.

Tom Murphy has been one of the most prominent and influential people in the history of Hamilton College. He has been men's basketball coach for 30 years and has served 21 years as athletic director. He runs a clean program that has expanded enormously over the years to 28 varsity sports and complies with all gender equity regulations. His success as basketball coach is well documented. He has won over 500 games; has had 26 consecutive winning seasons; and has coached 10 All-Americans. He serves on numerous committees as a coach and athletic director, attends many conferences throughout the year to further the development and success of Hamilton College, and serves as chairman of the division three men's basketball selection committee. He is one of most well respected people in the college sports world.

Every year alumni come back and share stories with the basketball team of how much Coach Murphy has meant in their lives. They say how he helped them get jobs in the business world, got them into the coaching profession, and simply taught them values that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. At this year's winter sports brunch, Coach Murphy broke down and cried when talking about how much his team meant to him. He loves this school and community more than anyone else on campus and would do anything to further its success. If you walk by his office at ten o'clock at night his light is usually on. When the basketball team shows up for its preseason conditioning at seven in the morning, he has already been in the office and run a few miles himself. Few are more competitive and hard working than him.

For some reason Tom Murphy is no longer qualified to be a leader at this school. One would think that someone who has dedicated his life to a place would treat him with loyalty and respect. Given all the success he has enjoyed over the years, he had the opportunity to leave this school many times, but always said no because he loves division three sports and loves this school. There has been no decline in the athletic department over the years. He is clearly capable of continuing to do a great job. This decision is not about wins and losses or about "going in a new direction." This is simply the case of a good man getting stabbed in the back by his school and by a member of his staff.

What kind of ethical example does this decision set for the student body? Hamilton College is an institution of higher learning where we are supposed to be taught to be good people as much as we are taught how to write a senior thesis. We have things like the honor code and a new curriculum that will further empower students, yet our leaders lack ethics and they lack loyalty. Tom Murphy should be the definition of "job security." Tom Murphy was not only blindsided by President Tobin, he was backstabbed by Coach Thompson. How could anyone accept a position under these circumstances? Thompson did not earn or fight for this position, it was handed to him. Furthermore, Thompson does not have a degree in physical education nor does he have any administrative experience. How could anyone want to gain something by destroying a mentor and colleague? What about Viscomi and Grady? How could anyone accept such a position knowing that their friends were passed over? A job should be earned in good faith, not as part of some scam.

What does this mean for the future of the athletic department? Coach Murphy is undoubtedly more experienced and more qualified for the position and it will be interesting to see if the department enjoys similar success over the coming years with someone new at the helm. Usually when a change in leadership is made, it is because something needs improvement or the current person is doing a poor job. Obviously that is not true in this case. This is a lose-lose situation for Hamilton athletics. We lose a great Athletic Director and we also lose a great swim coach.

Tom Murphy was fired last week despite an impeccable history as a leader and teacher of young people at this school. The position of athletic director was recently named in his honor. However, he will not

*See **AD Firing**, page 7*

Anti-Social Options

What topic is on the tips of everyone's tongue these days? The social life. "There's nothing to do tonight!" "The administration is trying to kill the Greek party scene." "I'm bored. Let's go break some stuff." A change is in the air. Between the President's Coalition on alcohol, the ban on hard alcohol, and the derecognition of AD, it's apparent that the social life on this campus is in transition. Everyone seems to have an opinion, adamant or offhand, and these voices are yearning to be heard.

With this in mind, on Monday I went to the social options town hall meeting that the Student Assembly sponsored expecting a lively debate involving people from every corner of the student body. However, instead

JUSTIN TYLER

I found a debate between a small group of, for the most part, like-minded students. Don't get me wrong, it was great to see and group of students showing concern for what is happening on this campus but I couldn't help but be disappointed that there wasn't a wider variety of students there. For all of the griping that goes on across this campus only a handful of people made the effort to discuss options for change. What was encouraging was the number of faculty who came out to hear what the campus had to say. It became apparent that they are as interested as the students are in working toward a better and safer social scene on this campus.

By the end of the meeting the discussion had covered a wide variety of topics: alcohol policy, the possibility of a student security force, rape on this campus, and the possibility of a social honor code for Hamilton. It was an informative meeting and a lot of worthwhile ideas were examined, but the conclusion of the talk left me unsatisfied. The last ten minutes of the conversation focused on what steps to take from here and the group concluded two things: 1) Any changes concerning social options on this campus would have to be made by a small group of people and 2) the best way to change the social policy on this campus is through word of mouth.

The assembled group didn't have much hope for a continued student interest on this issue. They believe that any change will come from a tiny minority of the student body, such as the student assembly. They seem to take for granted that most students don't care what happens to them and will just deal with whatever decision gets handed down. What they don't see is that this sort of decision making process only propagates more unrest. Since the majority of students don't want to get involved, the decision will not reflect any of their opinions and therefore they will be unhappy with it. The decision will satisfy those that worked on it and the rest will get what they deserve for not taking action. However, that won't get us anywhere. If we as a community are going to examine the social life on this campus we need the mandate of the people. We need to examine everyone's opinion or else the changes will just incite more conflict. But how do you inspire interest among students? You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. What does it take to get the people involved?

At the meeting, we concluded that we could get everyone involved simply through word of mouth, that is, discussing the issue on a one-on-one basis with anyone we run into. I disagree. How can we expect to create a consensus through random encounters with friends and strangers? Even more importantly, how do we expect to interact with any sort of cross-section of the student body? This campus is divided into so many cliques that it is impossible to count on interaction between students that aren't well acquainted. How many of us are comfortable walking up to a group of people we don't know and discussing anything, let alone social policy? The lack of community here won't allow for a word of mouth discourse. Relying on that as a means of change won't get us anywhere.

So what options are there for discussion? The Spectator? The town hall meeting agreed that The Spec too often falls into the trap of negativity and complaint. It's true, to an extent. Most people aren't inspired to write unless they've been somehow wronged, but to forsake the paper as a way to voice opinion is a mistake. For all of the complaining there are still a great number of innovative and valid ideas that are expressed within these pages. It reaches more people than word of mouth ever will. However, the best way to discuss social options is in the format that the Student Assembly just pioneered: the town hall meeting. It's perfect for hearing what the average student has to say and if administration attendance continues then some real change could be made. If there were meetings like the one on Monday every month or so, more and more students would take advantage of them and pretty soon decisions could be made for the better.

The Northern Ireland Conflict: What is it, really?

We hear words like 'Sinn Fein' and the 'Good Friday Agreement' frequently in the news, but do we really understand the conflict in Northern Ireland? Probably not. I've been studying it for three months now and I still don't think I get it. It is a complex problem that involves four centuries of Irish history and an international community. I am not a political expert, but I want to try to put the conflict, as I understand it, into simple language so that the next time you hear about it, things might make a little more sense. There are many reasons for us to understand, and have an opinion about, the situation in Northern Ireland. It has been going on for our entire lifetimes, and will not be coming

Cristin Sargent

to any sort of conclusion anytime soon. The United States is heavily involved, especially under the Clinton administration, and Americans primarily of Irish descent continue to fund IRA activity.

A common misconception regarding government in Northern Ireland is the idea that 'the Protestants and the Catholics are fighting each other for control.' In fact, the conflict, which Irish people call 'the Troubles,' is an ethnic conflict that has political, religious and class implications. There are two main ethnic groups in the province: one sees itself as primarily British in culture, which includes embracing British institutions like the Crown and the Church of England. The other sees itself as Irish in cultural makeup, and identifies with Irish characteristics such as Catholicism and Gaelic heritage. Roughly, the first group constitutes about 60 percent of the population of Northern Ireland, while the second is the remaining 40 percent. Labels for this first group include Unionists — Protestants who, because they see themselves as culturally British, want to maintain the status quo in Northern Ireland, a full union with England. Loyalists are Unionists who are prepared to resort to violence to attain this goal. The second group are Nationalists - Catholics who would like to remove British rule and create a united Ireland. Republicans are those nationalists who use paramilitary violence to achieve a united Ireland. People often use the terms Catholic/Nationalist and Protestant/Unionist interchangeably, but it is important to understand these differences.

How did these two separate ethnicities develop, and how did this part of Ireland get to be so different from the rest of the island? As early as the 17th century, when Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom, there was a general feeling that Ulster - the northern quarter of Ireland - was different. Scottish Presbyterians settled in Ulster during this century, when all of Ireland was Catholic. During the next century Ulster managed to avoid the destruction of the Great Famine but rather experienced flourishing commerce along with Britain, while the rest of the island was in poverty. These and other reasons, including a sense of a distinct political community, caused the Irish people to demand emancipation from Britain. By 1900, it seemed there was sufficient agitation for Westminster to consider this demand. However, there was a large minority of citizens of Ulster who vehemently opposed the disbandment of the union between Ireland and England: they were British citizens, loyal to the king, and enjoyed being members of a kingdom with far-reaching economic power and influence. This group, called Ulster Unionists, were willing to resist home rule for Ireland with physical force. Unable to ignore the tremendous call for home rule from nationalists in the south and violent demands for the upholding of the union in the north, Westminster took its least worst option: it split the island of Ireland into two parts. Threatening violence allowed Unionists to achieve their goal - remaining part of the Union - and other groups in Ireland took note of this successful use of violence to attain political victory. Twenty-six counties became the Free State of Ireland, and six counties in the North became the United Kingdom province of Northern Ireland. Catholic counties that were originally part of Ulster were purposefully left out so that an artificial Protestant majority existed in Northern Ireland.

Immediately, the infant state had tremendous structural problems. Unionists engaged in a 'triumphalist' form of government, dominating private and public institutions. Never fully teased out as a democratic plurality, no institutions or laws existed that would protect basic human rights and guard citizens against abuse of power by local officials. Catholics, though forty percent of the population, had no representation in the new government, Stormont. Even if they had been given a say, they would've abstained. Nationalists refused to accept the legitimacy of the state, and instead saw themselves as trapped in an artificial construction made possible by Unionists' violent threats. It is this fundamental constitutional cleavage that has characterized politics in Northern Ireland ever since.

The main problem that cripples any sort of peace process is that conflict resolution must necessarily include compromise. Any sort of compromise in Northern Ireland would call for both blocs to abandon a political philosophy that reflects their basic sense of identity. 'Irish' Nationalists will not help govern a state they see as illegitimate, while 'British' Unionists will not weaken the union with Great Britain to any degree. Many see this conflict between the two groups therefore as unsolvable, because neither will desert their ethnic identity or political project.
Please watch for a later column, which will talk about how I think the conflict may finally come to a conclusion.

AD Firing

*From **Murphy**, Page 6*

have a graceful and respectable exit and he will not leave under his own terms. Hopefully everyone will understand how he was treated last week and know that a man with his heart and desire would never "resign". Hopefully his legacy will live on with the future success of his men's basketball team and the success of his alumni after they have left Hamilton. Tom Murphy has given a lot to this school, unfortunately future Hamiltonians will never experience all the time, commitment, energy and competitive spirit he had left in him.

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Weekend Horoscopes

Capricorn (December 21- January 19)
Your abilities to be a well spoken, intelligent individual may bring you great rewards or prizes in the near future.
Your lucky State this weekend: Connecticut

Aquarius (January 20 - February 17)
Catch up on some of that much needed rest that you are missing - otherwise your life could become as miserable as the recent weather.
Your lucky object this weekend: A pillow and blanket

Pisces (February 18 - March 19)
You may have had to play the role of scavenger at one point but now your abilities to be creative may be tested again.
Your lucky activity: Debate

Aries (March 20 - April 19)
Don't worry if things seem a little dull this week. Your schoolwork will eventually catch up to you and overtake your very existence, and your life will no longer be lacking any meaning.
Your lucky spot this weekend: The library

Taurus (April 20 - May 19)
Your hard work has paid off, enjoy the position that you are in now and as well as any new ones that you begin in the future.
Your lucky character this weekend: Online Hippies

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
Even when it seems like a good time may have turned bad you have the ability to turn things around, whether it is at a party or in a parking lot. Just let yourself go.
Your lucky toy this weekend: A Sony playstation

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
Not only is your future going to be bright, but also your recent present has been so bright that you have had to wear shades.
Your lucky frozen treat this weekend: A popsicle

Leo (July 22 - August 22)
Taking the time to stop and talk with your neighbors can be fun. Try to do it more often.
Your lucky program: A 12 step one

Virgo (August 23 - September 21)
Your luck in the numbers turned out ok, now just sit back and relax and things will fall into place.
Your lucky living arrangement: A suite

Libra (September 22 - October 22)
Taking a break from being the responsible one in the group has brought you fun in the past, try to keep it up and things in your life won't seem as stressful sometimes.
Your lucky movie this weekend: The Amazing Colossal Man

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)
Your ability to handle the nasty things you find, even though they may belong to someone else, will come in handy this weekend.
Your lucky beverage this weekend: Stolen Wine

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 20)
Certain people have gifts that are waiting for you; stopping by at the right time could get you great rewards.
Your lucky class this weekend: A shot one

LETTERS

Continued

To the Editor,

I write to address the reactions to my letter of two weeks ago, and to clarify some points that were clearly misunderstood by some. On the whole, I was pleasantly surprised by the vast majority of responses. Many an acquaintance, some I rarely talk to, and even one of my professors went out of their way to identify with some or all of the points I have made. At least anecdotally, my notion that these ideas are widespread would seem to be strongly supported. I reached some people, but whether they were exhorted into action or not remains to be seen. While I certainly don't take credit for the reversal of the freshmen-in-Carnegie decision, I like to think that I helped. It was a perfect example of how a poor decision can be confronted by vocal student response.

As for the few negative reactions, they fell into two clear camps. These would be those of the apathetic population, and the others were of the knee-jerk liberal variety. The response from both was expected, but still disappointing. As for those too apathetic too care, I can only stress that you are abdicating any say you may have in the processes that affect your lives.

Those of the other variety were well summed up by a letter in the last issue by a Ms. Byrne '00. But first I think I should clarify two points that were brought up in other responses.

As for the Presidential Coalition on Alcohol, my sarcastic style did perhaps draw away from my point and unfairly criticized certain aspects. I should not have suggested that the statistics that were actually received were manipulated in any way. Rather, I attempted to touch upon the widespread SKEPTICISM of the validity of these statistics, and the manner in which they were gathered. Without recognizing this skepticism and addressing it, the coalition is neglecting many of the people it is trying to reach. So why are people skeptical? First of all, they questioned the motives of the council, whether rightly or wrongly. Many believe that these statistics would be used with a hidden agenda to ban alcohol, or drastically alter social policy, it's simply a fact. Also, the statistics, especially the way they were presented, just didn't "seem" right to many. Maybe there is something to this. What many people don't know is, that while 400 random students were polled, 41% (I'm not completely sure of this, but I know it to be over 30%)of those polled did NOT return the survey. Now normally, a 59% return rate would be great, but that completely ignores the fact that those who did not return the survey could very well be statistically different from those that did. Ask yourself, who is more likely to return a form, even a confidential one? Imagine on the one hand, a moderate drinker, not skeptical of the survey, and interested in reporting her lack of drug use. On the other hand, imagine a hard drinker, who is skeptical of the aims of such a report, and who is too busy socializing to fill out a survey. What about the infamous 2/3=1/4? An aggregate display of total alcohol volume across all students is a poor representation of individual consumption levels, for it completely ignores vastly different levels of tolerance. Consider even the statistics on marijuana use, how many potheads do you know that would take the time to fill out a survey? These aren't mere conjectures, these dichotomies manifested themselves in all the friends that I knew to have filled out or not filled out these forms back in the Fall of '98. Surely anyone who actually read my letter would have noticed that I stressed the importance of alcohol education in minimizing the negative consequences of drinking. However, we can not ignore these important skepticism not only of the presentation of these statistics but also of the sample identity if we hope to improve the efficacy of such programs. Also, a careful reading will in fact reveal that I did not coin the term "coalition AGAINST alcohol", rather, I QUOTED it from the Daily Bull, and correctly identified it as a Freudian slip, echoing the PERCEPTION of many that a Presidential Coalition ON alcohol, must be AGAINST alcohol.

On a different note, one cheery lad decided to leave me a caustic voice-mail explaining that I did not "understand" Kheen. Again, a knee-jerk misunderstanding. I do not wish to take away the option of Kheen in the least. I believe that those who choose to live here have every right to live with like-minded individuals, and take responsibility for communal chores. And hey, everyone loves that Utica Club in the soda machine. The clear point of my letter was that the school should not be promoting and heavily funding one such communal living environment while denying those very same rights to other students simply because they belong to a "private society".

I also was very amused at some assertions, accompanied by these few negative reactions, that I did not understand the Residential Life Decision of 1995. If anyone would like to contact me and debate social engineering trends at colleges for the past 200 years, in loco parentis, or the legal and ethical arguments in favor of freedom of association, please don't hesitate to do so.

As for Ms. Byrne's letter itself, it is so full of mis-information that it deserves a certain point-by-point rebuttal. She doesn't see an anti-greek bias? Well, as far as I know, the college in fact robbed these societies of their constitutional right of association (residence) (see California, state-of), but also holds societies to a stricter and higher standard than any other group on campus. Would it surprise anyone to learn that the faculty routinely "votes" to derecognize societies by near unanimity? Clearly Ms. Byrne isn't even looking.

Ms. Byrne asserts that I am "crying out" over the ban on hard alcohol. Wrong again, the clear point of that part of the letter was illustrating that the banning of alcohol, and fraternity suspension failed to address the lack of personal responsibility that created the situation in the first place. She asserts that I do not understand the aim of the coalition on alcohol, even to say that I claim it is "against" alcohol, again patently false (note: please actually read letter next time, see note above).

Ms. Byrne goes on to assert that blocking was gotten rid of, in favor of a "pull" system, well again, it might have helped to have some knowledge of the subject. In the academic year of '97-'98 there existed such a thing as 8-blocks, and even a separate blocking lottery. The 8 blocks were gotten rid of because of damage concerns and specifically to keep large groups of society members from living together in Bundy, trust me, I was at the RHC Meetings. The next year the blocking lottery was gotten rid of, and Bundy sections became mandatory "co-ed", because of damage concerns, not because of some preference for a "pull-in" system.

Ms. Byrne makes some snide remarks about "pledging" to wrap up this "informed" reaction. And then goes even further by implying that I, and others are too worried about the social life at Hamilton. Again, if she had only taken the time to READ the letter, she would have noticed that I ended it with a clear qualification of the relative importance of the issues I raised. Of course, if one is to get involved in making a better social scene, one should also be concerned with other aspects of Hamilton life, like HAVOC, which I mention. Curriculum reform, date-rape, race-relations of campus, all of these issues are clearly more important. But does this mean we should completely neglect this one aspect of our lives? NO! Again, I exhort you to take control of the situations in which you find yourself. Contribute INFORMED opinions to discourses, get involved, don't accept things at face-value. Do not let the vocal nay-saying of those such as Ms. Byrne discourage you from acting on your ideals, for as I pointed out at the top of the letter, you are NOT in the minority.

Timothy B. Sapir '01

Dear Hamilton Students,

Did you buy your computer through the school and pay more than full price, only to realize that it does not come equipped with an internal fax/modem. This item is as common in most computers as a floppy disk drive and yet you don't have it. Of course this does not pose a problem to most, as we receive quality internet access through a T1 line. However as I have been informed by ITS a T1 connection does not utilize telephone lines, and hence disables your ability to use Microsoft fax or any other computer fax program for that matter. Of course I could unplug my T1 connection and jack the line into the phone, but as I mentioned previously, this would be pointless seeing as I have no internal fax modem.

Hey Neil what does all of this jargon mean to me?

It means that if you want to fax anything at Hamilton, you need to find a legit fax machine. The new problem lies in the fact that there is only one on campus available to you, and you need to flash some plastic if you want to use it. If you are one of these people that has such a luxury, you're still not getting off that easy, because it's not to goddamn cheap.

Hey Neil where does a poor schmuck like yourself go to fax materials?

I needed to fax a cover letter and resume to a prospective employer. The logical place to do this would be the Career Center. Still the friendly Career Center employees informed me that this was not possible. In part this was due to the fact that my job opportunity was not offered through the Career Center, and the other part due to the fact that the Career Center employees are not friendly. They were however nice enough to direct me to the Dean of Students office which also has a fax machine. Yet again I received a harsh rebuff.

The next time a prospective employer asks you to fax him or her your materials... ask for their address.

Meet you on the unemployment line.

Sincerely,
Neil Derfler '02

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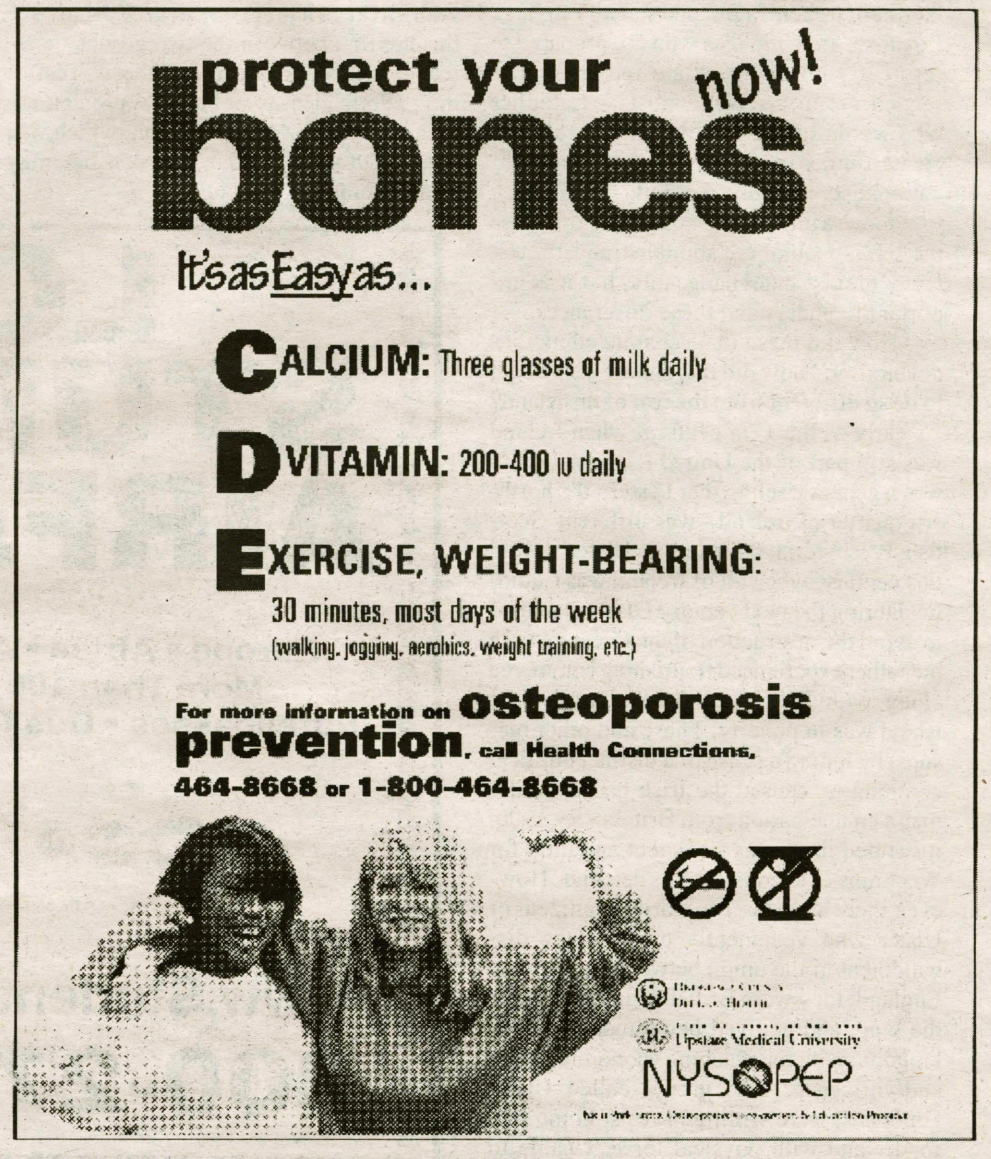
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Arts & Entertainment

Artist In The Spotlight: Justin Tyler

By Matt Olney '01
A&E EDITOR

Hamilton College is not well known for its theater. Though the departmnent is not one of the largest on campus, it springs new and better talent each year. Many students enter Hamilton having never acted before, but by their Junior and Senior years, they feel at home in front of audiences. Brad Fleischer, who was interviewed for The Spectator earlier this month, had no acting experience entering Hamilton and since has worked with Mike Myers and Bill Murray. This weeks actor in the spot light, Justin Tyler, became an actor almost as a fluke.

"I came to Hamilton interested in the sciences," Tyler says. "I had no acting experience before I came here. Freshman year, I got shut out of a class and took theater as an alternative. I found it interesting, and since then acting has been a big part of my life."

Growing up, Justin watched a lot of Marx Brothers and Charlie Chaplin's work, which formed a creative spark within. In the spirit of these inventive actors, Justin is interested in the improvisational side of acting. Of all the acting he is involved with on the hill, Justin's favorite is his work in Yodapez, which he is a co-leader. "I like being in charge of my work, and the improvisational aspect of Yodapez allows me to make things up as I go. It's so much fun to just get up there in front of an audience with nothing planned and see what happens. It's like flying by the seat of your pants, except with more sexual references."

Justin will continue his improv work as an intern at the Chicago Improv Festival next week, and will be doing improv work this summer in New York City.

Though improvisation is his main focus at the moment, Justin enjoys acting and directing. Freshman year, Justin acted in "The Way Of The World", which was his first involvement in a production at Hamilton. Sophomore year, Justin landed big parts in "Pilgrims Of The Night" and "Orestes". Justin played a tough-guy film producer in Pilgrims Of The Night". "That was a fun role to play, and 'Pilgrims' was my favorite play." In his junior year, Justin acted in "Vinegar Tom" and made his directorial debut with David Ives' "Words, Words, Words." "It was a lot different being on the other side of the action," Tyler explains. "I was more nervous watching the other actors than I get myself." Next year, for his senior thesis Justin wants to write, direct and star in his own production.

On campus, Justin's main influence has been Craig Latrell. "He got me started with this whole acting business. He laid out the fundamentals for me and wouldn't let any of us in the class get away with second rate work."

Outside of Hamilton, Justin is very active. He is currently acting in a pilot called "Spy-High". "It is a combination of 'Saved By The Bell' and 'Inspector Gadget'", Tyler explains. "It is about a history teacher who is a spy. I play a fifteen-year-old high schooler, a lot like Zack Morris, but less cool. The pilot should be complete in May and will hopefully be sent out to some studios in the future."

In the meantime, Justin enjoys the Hamilton experience. Tyler likes watching Murdock and The A-Team and hanging out with his friends. In his room hangs a framed poster of his favorite film, *Joe vs. The Volcano*. "It is working on so many levels," Justin claims. Unconventional? Yeah, but that is the kind of guy Justin Tyler is. His originality and spark are an asset to the Hamilton community, and yield positive results not just in his acting, but in everything he does and will continue to do.

PHOTO BY ORION ROEDER

Justin Tyler '01 is always looking to be original, even in the snow.

WHCL's Top Albums

1 THE APPLES IN STEREO Discovery of a World Inside the Moone spinart

2 THE WEE TURTLES This Land Is Your Land Pitch A Tent

3 VARIOUS ARTISTS Moshi Moshi March

4 VARIOUS ARTISTS Banter Candle Record Compilation Candle

5 THE ESSEX GREEN The Essex Green Elephant 6

6 DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE We Have the Facts and We're Voting Yes Barsuk

7 WOLF COLONEL Vikings of Mint K

8 VARIOUS ARTISTS Indie Aid Abroad Drive In

9 PEDRO THE LION Winners Never Quit Jade Tree

10 REGGIE AND THE FULL EFFECT Promotional Copy Vagrant

11 SONGS:OHIA The Lioness Secretly Canadian

12 DOLEFUL LIONS The Rats Are Coming! The Werewolves Are Here! Parasol

13 JAPANCAKES Down the Elements Kindercore

14 MAZARIN Watch It Happen Victoria

15 TURNEDOWN When Things Go Right Sessions

16 SOUTHPACIFIC Constance Turnbuckle

17 SUPER XX MAN Vol. IV Peek-a-Boo

18 BEACHWOOD SPARKS Beachwood Sparks Sub Pop

19 PIEBALD The Rock Revolution Will Not Be Televised Big Wheel Recreation

20 BRIGHT EYES Fevers and Mirrors Saddle Creek

21 SARGE Distant Mud

22 GREAT LAKES Great Lakes Kindercore

23 THE FLASHING LIGHTS Where the Change Is spinart

24 TREMBLING BLUE STARS Broken By Whispers Sub Pop

25 STARLET Stay on My Side Parasol

26 MOVIOLA Durable Dream Spirit of Orr

27 BRAID Movie Music Vol. 1 & 2 Polyvinyl

28 VERSUS Shangri-la Merge

29 VARIOUS ARTISTS The Shinin' K

30 65 FILM SHOW Breathing Will Be Assisted Law of Inertia

WHAT'S GOIN' ON

The Best of what's happening on and off campus

Little Pub Presents:

Cesari Quartet
Wednesday, April 26 9:00 PM

Jumbo Shrimp
Friday, April 28 9:00 PM

CAB Presents:

Billy Madison
Starring Adam Sandler
Friday, April 21 11:00 PM KJ Aud

Hamilton African Studies Dept.:

In The Cutting of A Drink
Monday, April 24 8:00 PM Annex
Free Admission

Munson Williams-Proctor Institute:

The Limey
Directed by Steven Soderbergh
Starring Terence Stamp and Peter Fonda
Wednesday, April 26 7:30 PM
Museum of Art Auditorium

KAC Presents:

Amy Gallatin & Stillwaters
Friday, April 21 8:00 PM

The band has performed at country anf bluegrass festivals, fairs, concert halls and coffeehouses in the eastern U.S. and traveled to several European countries in 1996 and 1998. Most recently the group performed in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Denmark.

Hamilton College Theater and Dance Department:

SCAPIN

By special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., the Theater and Dance Department of Hamilton College present ***Scapin***, Moliere's rollicking, slapstick comedy. Follow the antics of the wily servant Scapin with his scams to get money from avaricious old men, rescue kidnapped maidens, and unite young lovers. There's swordplay and slapstick galore in this high-energy comic masterpiece which will also feature dances, acrobatics and virtuoso juggling from a multi-talented cast. It is 90 minutes of fun for all ages!

Scapin will be performed Thursday - Saturday, April 20-22 at 8:00 PM, with a special matinee performance on Saturday at 2:00 PM. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children.

Movie Reviews

Three Kings packs action, drama, and dark comedy

By Matt Olney '01

David O. Russell entered the film world in 1994 with his critically acclaimed project *Spanking the Monkey*. He was able to get a top notch cast for his next picture, *Flirting With Disaster*, which starred Ben Stiller, Tea Leone, and Patricia Arquette. Quickly, Russell became a master at delving into the depths of the dysfunctional family. His latest picture, *Three Kings*, recently released on video, strays far from that subject matter.

Three Kings, starring George Clooney, Mark Walberg, Ice Cube, and Spike Jonze, takes a look at the lives of four soldiers at the Persian Gulf War's end. The year is 1991 and the cease-fire command has just been signed, ending the war. Clooney, Walberg, Cube, and Jonze, each lazy American troupers, stumble upon a map (in a very unlikely place) leading to millions of dollars in Kuwaiti gold bullion. The men decide to follow the map and steal the gold, despite the fact that it is illegal with the cease-fire signing. As the road to the gold gets more and more dangerous, the soldiers find the mission to be one of mercy rather than fortune.

PHOTO BY WARNER BROS

Clooney, Cube, Walberg, and a whole lot of gold .

The film is cleverly written and directed. The camera never stops moving, even when someone is shot. When a bullet enters a body, so does the camera, showing us the internal effects of gun shot wounds.

Russell has the uncanny ability to create character-driven stories. The main characters in *Three Kings* are funny and sympathetic at the same time. Their bravery is unveiled through the film as their innocence is lost, especially in George Clooney's character, who leads the mission.

What keeps this film going is its even mix of drama, action, and black comedy. Just when the action reaches its peak, comedy brings it back down. In one scene, Walberg's character is beaten and locked in a room full of cell phones in the basement of a bunker. Just as it looks like he has reached his breaking point, he picks up one of the cell phones and calls his wife and baby daughter back home.

This film may not shock you the way *Saving Private Ryan* did with obscene amounts of gore; however, *Three Kings* is fresh and fun to watch. The cinematography has a documentary-style feel, the acting is good, and the directing is amazing. This is a gutsy film containing a little something for everyone. *Three Kings* is risky filmmaking at its best.

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Edward Norton directs a charm in Keeping The Faith

By Darcy Lewis '02

Edward Norton is a relative newcomer to Hollywood stardom. His first movie, *Primal Fear*, immediately put him on the map as an outstanding actor with a wide range of abilities. He played a murderous altar boy and secured a Supporting Actor Oscar nomination on his first venture into the world of film. He has since appeared in a handful of eclectic and acclaimed films, including *Everyone Says I Love You, People Vs. Larry Flynt, and American History X*, for which he received a Best Actor Oscar nomination. Now Norton has taken his talent to another level, serving as both director and star in the new film, *Keeping the Faith*.

Norton and Ben Stiller (*There's Something About Mary*) star as a priest and a rabbi, respectively, who both fall in love with the same girl, an old childhood friend played by Jenna Elfman ("Dharma and Greg"). Norton and Stiller play two newcomers on the religion scene who inject some much needed pizzazz into their daily sermons and masses. They basically do comedy routines at mass, drawing huge crowds with their odd and interesting ways. When Elfman returns, they both find themselves attracted to her. Terrible consequences will befall them if they act on their feelings. Norton, the priest, would break his vow of chastity, while Stiller would risk being alienated from his congregation if he falls for a non-Jewish girl.

PHOTO BY GLEN WILSON

Norton makes his directorial debut.

The film really examines the two institutions and comments on whether some customs are necessary or just plain out-dated. It takes a look at religion and faith, and where the two ideas intersect and separate.

PHOTO BY SANTE D'ORAZIO

Stiller, Elfman, and Norton are in a love triangle in *Keeping The Faith.*

Unlike other romantic comedies, this film goes to great lengths to surprise the audience. The premise is ridiculous in its own right, but Norton, Stiller, and Elfman take the hilarious script to a new level of absurdity with their out-of-control acting. All three actors are so unbelievably comfortable in their roles that they make the absurdity seem totally acceptable.

Norton also recruited a great supporting cast, including Milos Foreman (director of *People Vs. Larry Flynt*), Eli Wallach (*The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly*), and Anne Bancroft (*The Graduate*). With the help of his strong cast, Norton creates an intelligent, witty comedy. Stiller is the same character he always plays: the macho, yet bumbling, semi-intelligent funnyman, but the character seems to work for him. The only film in which I have ever seen him actually make an effort to act is *Permanent Midnight*. Elfman is classic as the quirky, boisterous businesswoman who comes between the lifelong friends and gives them a great challenge in many ways.

The film's light yet somehow deep story line works well with the three central actors' different qualities, and together they evoke a lively, sharp, funny film that stands out from all the other romantic comedies that are shoved at audiences today.

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Music Review

SUPREME BEINGS OF LEISURE

PHOTO BY KATE GARNER

From Staff Reports

Supreme Beings Of Leisure came together, as the name would suggest, without much effort. A cosmic accident - four souls in search of one thing and finding another.

Before Supreme Beings Of Leisure, there was Oversoul 7. Rick Torres, Kiran Shahani, and Ramim Sakurai were recording a rap demo when on a whim they asked friend Geri Soriano-Lightwood, who was working on her own solo record, to try her hand at writing and singing over their tracks. The results took everyone by surprise; the chemistry was obvious. The trio's clever programming and seductive grooves beautifully showcased Geri's distinctive voice and her astonishing lyrics - searching tales of longing and disillusionment. The demo version of "What's The Deal" and "Nothing Like Tomorrow" were released on two Moonshine Records compilations to critical raves and great support from local radio. A new sound was created - one that is sexy, seductive, glamorous, whimsical, soulful and haunting - a global sound with American perspective.

These four eclectic musical partners have created a deeply sly debut, one that owes as much of its sensual and transcendental nature to lavish electronic effects as it does simple human emotion. The vocalist's tales of fractures relationships may seem heavy, conflicting with the band's intended mission, yet Lightwood rolls her songs out with such determination and ease. Seduction prevails.

Supreme Beings Of Leisure bring together influences as disparate as Massive Attack, Bjork, Pink Floyd, Ravi Shankar, Mozart, ABC, Sly and the Family Stone, A Tribe Called Quest, etc. "If you saw our record collections you would undrstand," says Shahani. The band let its imagination run free when it came to making the album, creating a sound, a vibe that is funky, sexy and occasionally, well, delirious.

"Our sound is definitely under the pop umbrella, but it fuses a lot of things," says Sakurai. "We really hate to pin it down." But Torres is more direct: "Basically, anybody who has an orgasm likes our music." This attitude that is perfectly exemplified on "Never The Same" and "Last Girl On Earth," both sultry self-examinations of determination and need. Other highlights on the album include "Golddigger" and "Strange Addiction," tracks that capture the band's whimsy, while "What's The Deal," and "Always The Sun" reflect their street sense.

Whatever you may feel from these recordings, the origins of their music rest in its universal appeal. Their full-length self-titled musical effort is now available.

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Science in the News

Geo students will study ecology, global warming in waters off Antarctica

By Marika Geertz '01 and Sarah Lichtenstein '02
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

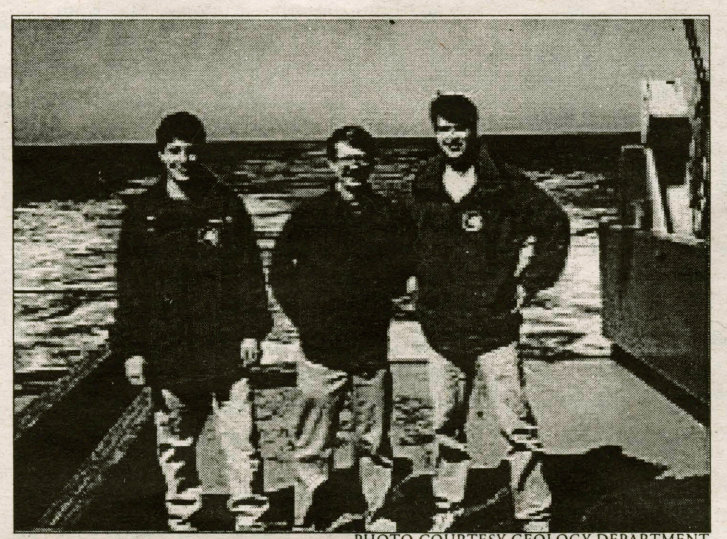


PHOTO COURTESY GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Above: Three participants of the Antarctica program seen here on deck of the Nathaniel B. Palmer.

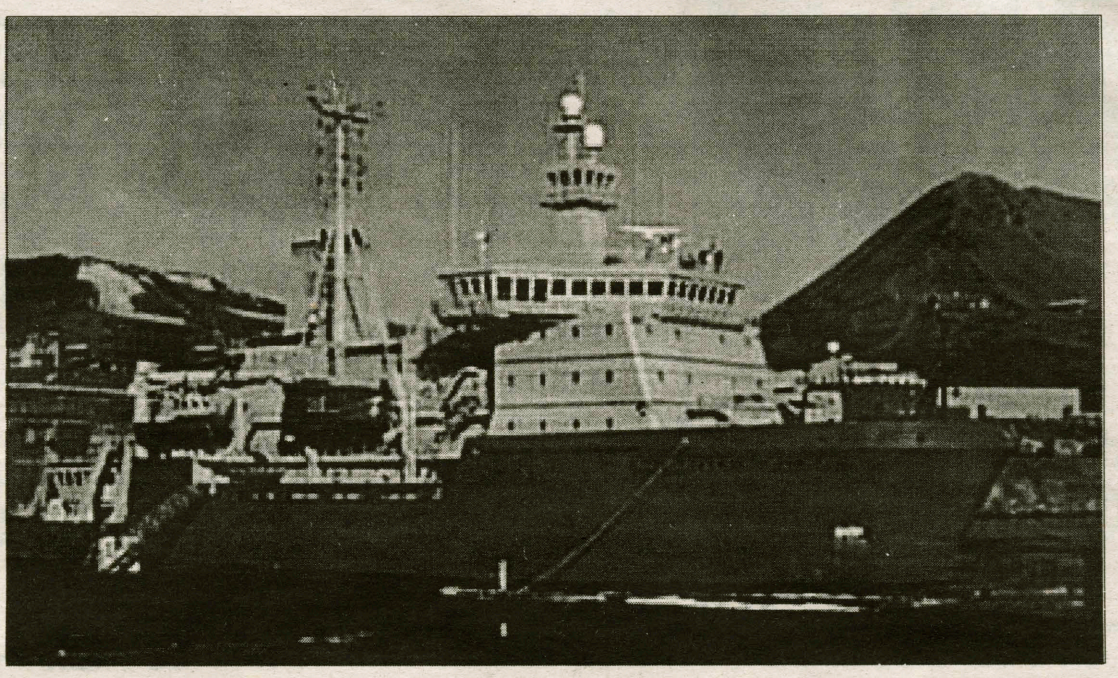
Below: A full view of the ship that is home to a group of students and scientists studying global warming and its effects on Antarctica's unique ecosystems.

Each year, a few Geology and Biology students have the rare opportunity to travel to Antarctica. Geology Professor Gene Domack and Biology Professor Pat Reynolds base most of their research on the effects of global warming on the continent of Antarctica, which acts as an indicator of climate change for the entire earth.

The lucky and brave students interested in this field of science travel to the bottom of the planet and work alongside these professors and other scientists who have been researching this area for years. It helps students gain insight into the career options that a future doing this type of work might offer.

This May, seven Hamilton students will join the crew aboard the Nathaniel B. Palmer for three weeks as it heads south through the Southern Hemisphere. Leaving before the school year officially ends, the crew will depart from Syracuse on May 6th and fly to Chile, where they will spend two days helping to prepare the ship for its journey to the Antarctica Peninsula.

Early in the morning on May 10th, they will leave the safety of their port in South America and head for the Drake Passage, a place notorious for the roughest seas in the world. A storm rolls through approximately every three days, which makes the chances of crossing it without hitting 30-foot seas somewhat slim.



Within two or three days, the boat will make its way to the Larsen Ice Shelf on the eastern side of the Antarctic Peninsula. The real research begins here. This region is a hot spot both for scientists and people simply interested in the environment. The ice there is rapidly melting and large pieces of the shelf are breaking off as average yearly temperatures continue to rise.

The goal of the research is to look into the ancient history of this continent to see past warming and cooling trends in this part of the world. Scientists on board the ship take sediment core samples from the ocean floor and analyze them for evidence of climatic changes that have occurred for the past 20,000 years.

A core sample is a long, thin tube of sediment that is extracted from the ocean floor; the deeper the sample, the farther back scientists can look into the past. Grain size as well as chemical composition in the sediment can give clues as to what has happened in the past as well as clues to what these trends may hold for the future.

Much of the preparation and analysis of the samples will take place on the boat. The students work in 12-hour shifts, helping with tasks that include core drilling and sediment analysis. They even learn how to navigate the ship.

Those making the trek this year include senior Geology major Nat Warner and Biology major Courtney Zimmer. They have dedicated much of their senior project work on the Antarctic. Geology majors Marika Geertz '01, David Carlson '01, Sarah Lichtenstein '02 and Allison Drake '02, and Biology major Daniel Catlin '01 will be expected to do their senior thesis projects on some aspect of climate change in the Antarctic as well.

Antarctica is home to many climate-sensitive and responsive ecosystems that serve as an indicator of global climate change. Global warming is a very real issue today. This trip will expose these students to the science that is figuring out how global warming is affecting our planet. It is indeed a rare opportunity for students at a small liberal arts on the 45th parallel in the Northern hemisphere to study global warming and ecology in the world's southernomst territory.

The worm story

By Scott Kalberer '01
SCIENCE WRITER

With the return of warm weather to Hamilton, we are once again graced with the presence of the humble yet fascinating earthworm. The earthworm is the most familiar member of the class of invertebrates known as the annelids. Annelids are the long skinny invertebrates that usually have a segmented body.

Although the earthworm may seem like a natural part of the local fauna, it has not always existed in the New World. The three most common types of worm are the night crawler, common field worm, and the green worm. Much like the dandelion and the zebra mussel, all three species were accidentally introduced by European settlers who shipped plants to America in earthworm-bearing soil.

This accident was a fortunate one for farmers, as the quality of soil is immeasurably improved by the presence of worms. Earthworms eat soil in order to extract its organic material and nutrients. Undigested material mixed with mucus from the digestive system is then defecated as clumps called casings.

These casings improve the texture of the soil, and the urea the earthworms produce is high in nitrogen and acts as an excellent fertilizer. The burrowing activity of worms aerates the soil, and the widespread death of earthworms in the dry summer slowly releases nutrients to the plants during this time of nutrient scarcity.

Earthworms provide an excellent food source for many other animals. Insect-eating birds cock their heads to the ground to listen for the movement of earthworms. If motion is perceived the bird will peck at the ground to dig up the worm.

Moles also dig through the earth searching for worms. Although most moles find worms by listening for movement, the star-nosed mole uses its unusually shaped nose to detect the small electrical fields produced by the earthworms. The mole is able to paralyze the worm with a carefully located bite and store the worm alive in its burrow for later consumption.

Although worms may appear helpless they are capable of surviving many dangerous situations. Earthworms can be frozen solid and survive if the freeze does not occur too quickly and the worms do not undergo repeated cycles of freezing and thawing.

*see **Worms** page 14*

The amazing earth worm

Worms continued from page 13

Earthworms flee from the blades of rototillers and other machines that turn over the soil, so that most of the earthworms on farms are able to escape being chopped into pieces.

Earthworms are hermaphrodites: they possess both male and female sexual organs. The worms mate by lying head to tail and producing a transient skin tube through which sperm can be ejected into a sperm sack. A girdle-like organ on the worm called a clitellum produces a mucous cocoon that slides off the worm and picks up the eggs and sperm. Embryos develop within the cocoon and emerge during the fall months.

Every time it rains, you can see the paths and roads littered with worms, both alive and crawling and squished by boots or wheels. One of the most misunderstood aspects of earthworm behavior is their appearance on the earth's surface after a heavy rain. Most people believe that the worms come to the surface to avoid drowning, but this is false. Worms absorb oxygen through blood vessels located in their skin, and they are capable of taking oxygen from either water or air.

The worms actually come to the surface in order to copulate with other earthworms. It is easier to find a mate on the open ground than within the labyrinthine three dimensional tunnel network, and during a rainstorm the worms are able to move about the ground without the danger of drying out and dying.

It is often stated that all living creatures, even the ugly and mundane, deserve respect. I hope you now know why the earthworm is one of the most interesting life forms to be found on our campus.

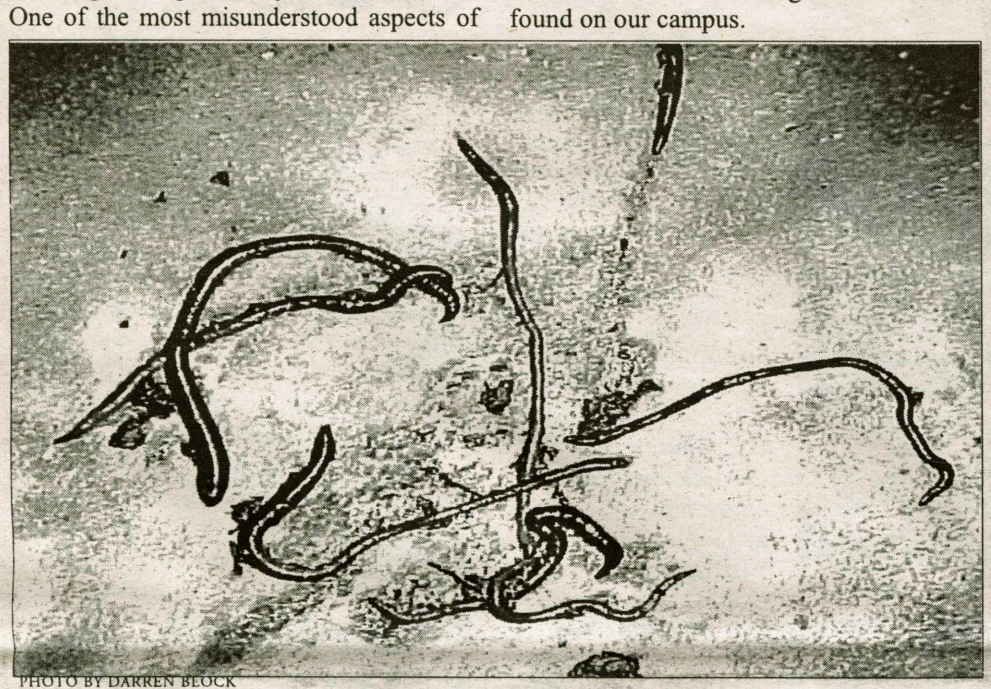


PHOTO BY DARREN BLOCK

A group of worms, some not so lucky, on a visit to the surface. Wet conditions make mating easier, so worms are seen everywhere after heavy rain.

The herbalism craze

It seems that people have developed a sudden need for every product to be "Natural." If you search for "natural" on Yahoo Shopping there are 57,118 and 98 merchants. Every product from natural oatmeal to the Microsoft Natural Keyboard Elite. For some reason we have decided that natural means better.

One of the biggest manifestations of this natural craze is in the sudden rise of herbalism. In just a couple years the herb section of CVS materialized and grew to be almost as large as the traditional drug department. Herbal medicines currently account for one of the fastest growing markets in U.S. pharmacies and constitute a multi-billion dollar industry.

Peter Brunette

Although approximately 1500 botanicals are sold as ethnic traditional medicines or dietary supplements, herbal medicines are not subject to Food and Drug Administration's premarket toxicity testing to assure their safety or efficacy. Yet, people continue to maintain the belief that herbs are natural, safe drugs. As a scientist I feel a need to dispel the rumors about herbs.

Herbs are not just natural drugs, they are plants with many different components. Moreover, just because they are natural does not mean that they are safe. Mother Nature can be cruel and vindictive. Some of the most deadly substances known are natural and plant derived.

Cyanide, for example, is completely plant derived. One could theoretically sell cyanide capsules as a natural plant extract. In fact, most commercial drugs are plant derived. Many drugs are originally plant derived; scientists have learned from natural plant chemistry how to synthesize the exact same chemicals in a lab.

For a lot of people, it is safer to take a commercial pill rather than an herb because commercial products usually contain only the active ingredient. At the same time though, this does not mean herbs are worthless. If herbs are used the right way, they can have many uses.

Herbs can be a form of preventative medicine. Instead of treating yourself with modern medicine after you become sick, herbalists believe that the right combinations of herbs can make you less susceptible to sickness in the first place.

If you use herbal supplements to remedy symptoms after you get sick though, you may have to deal with side effects from a large ingestion of chemicals. Also, herbs are holistic. That means they exhibit important properties that are more complicated than the function of one of its parts. Essentially, the whole is much greater than the sum of its parts.

When you take tetracycline or Ibuprofen, modern medicine has purified the pill down to a concentration that provides maximum potency against an infection or pain. Taking an herbal supplement is consuming many different things and getting the combined effects of the entire plant, not just a specific chemical. Still, most herbalists advocate taking herbs as a regular part of a healthy diet.

They say that herbs like Echinacea can be used to strengthen the immune system, or Ginko Biloba (actually a tree rather than an herb) to increase blood flow and memory. Clinical studies on Ginko Biloba have shown very little scientific evidence that it actually improves memory. In fact, the only significant find in a study of Ginko Biloba on alzheimers patients was that the herb delayed patients' entry into a nursing home by about 12 hours. Needless to say, that does not speak much for the memory increasing power of Ginko Boloba.

That is not to say that the placebo effect should be ignored. Studies have shown that the impact of a patient's belief in the efficacy of a medicine can have a significant influence on his or her condition.

Whether they work as we think they do or not, herbs are a separate class of supplements that is not tested or regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, so they do not go through the same safety tests as the food we eat or the aspirin we take.

Because there is limited data on the adverse effects of poorly understoond herbal supplements, the National Institute of Health has hosted a number of conferences to identify the most relevant and obvious research needs on the safety and efficacy of herbal medicines.

Overall, the conferences have found that additional studies are needed to fully understand the potential adverse health effects from herbal medicines on the reproductive system. The central nervous and the immune system may also be vulnerable to either acute high doses or chronic exposure to lower doses of certain herbal medicines.

So incorporate herbs into your life, but if you have a headache why not take Tylenol instead of some random herbal supplement? Or better yet, drink a glass of water because most headaches (including hangovers) are caused by dehydration.

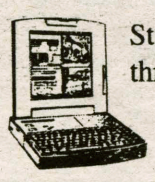
Your body has great healing powers and heating up your immune system can usually fight infection better. Its best to do some checking and find out what you are taking. Chances are its not a cyanide pill, but it might not be the best thing for you.

EXTRAS! EXTRAS!

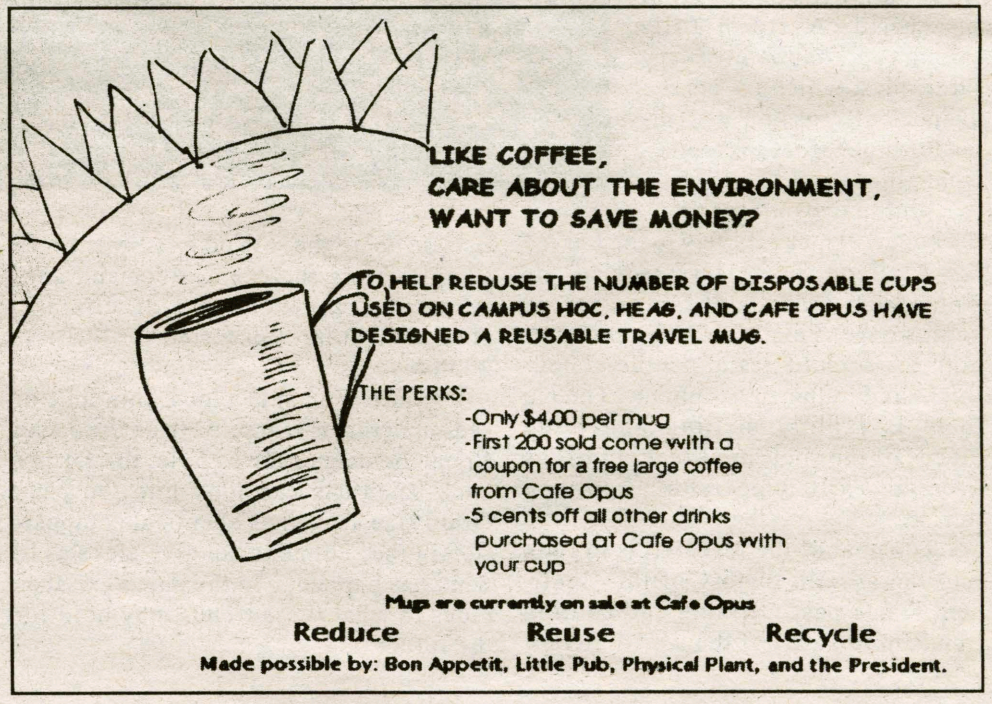
Hamilton now grants **credit for internships** when an employer requires that a student receive college credit for the opportunity.

Although the 1/4 credit may NOT be counted towards graduation requirements, there are some internships offered by employers that require students to receive school credit...employers want to know that the students are receiving some type of compensation for the internship.

If you come across an internship opportunity like this, and are interested in learning more about applying for credit, visit Associate Dean of Students Greg Pierce or the staff at the Career Center...



Still looking for an internship? Check out **Interncenter**, linked through our website at http://www.hamilton.edu/career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IOC to Athens: Olympics could be in danger

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) - Three years ago, the Olympic movement celebrated the sentimental return of the games to their birthplace in Greece in 2004.

On Thursday, the message to Athens was vastly different: Get your act together - or else. IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said the Athens Games were in the worst organizational crisis faced by an Olympic city in his 20-year tenure. He would not rule out moving the games, but said it was unlikely.

Shocked Greek organizers said the Samaranch was exaggerating the problems. The government said it will meet all future deadlines. Samaranch told the Greeks that organizing the Olympics involves three phases: green, when everything is going smoothly; yellow, when there are "many problems;" and red, when the "games are in danger."

"I told them we are at the end of the yellow phase," the International Olympic Committee president said. "If from now until the end of the year there are no drastic changes, we will enter the red phase."

Athens, which staged the first modern games in 1896, was awarded the 2004 Olympics in September 1997. Since then, many of the plans promised during the bid have been changed or dropped, and the organizing committee has been bogged down in government bureaucracy.

"They need to make important changes as soon as possible," Samaranch said. "This kind of organization is not delivering the results we expected. With four years before the games, it's time the government takes the responsibility they have to take."

Samaranch would not say what the IOC would do if Athens fails to shape up by the end of the year.

"I cannot imagine the games will not be held in Athens," he said. "We hope after this warning all the things will be in the right way. ... I am sure and optimistic there will be these changes very, very soon."

Samaranch said he warned Athens organizers privately months ago, but waited to go public until after this month's Greek elections. The Culture Ministry, which supervises sports, said it had "taken note" of the sharp criticism.

The Olympics have been canceled because of war, and Denver renounced the 1976 Winter Games, transferred to Innsbruck, Austria, because of public opposition. But the IOC has never stripped a city of the games.

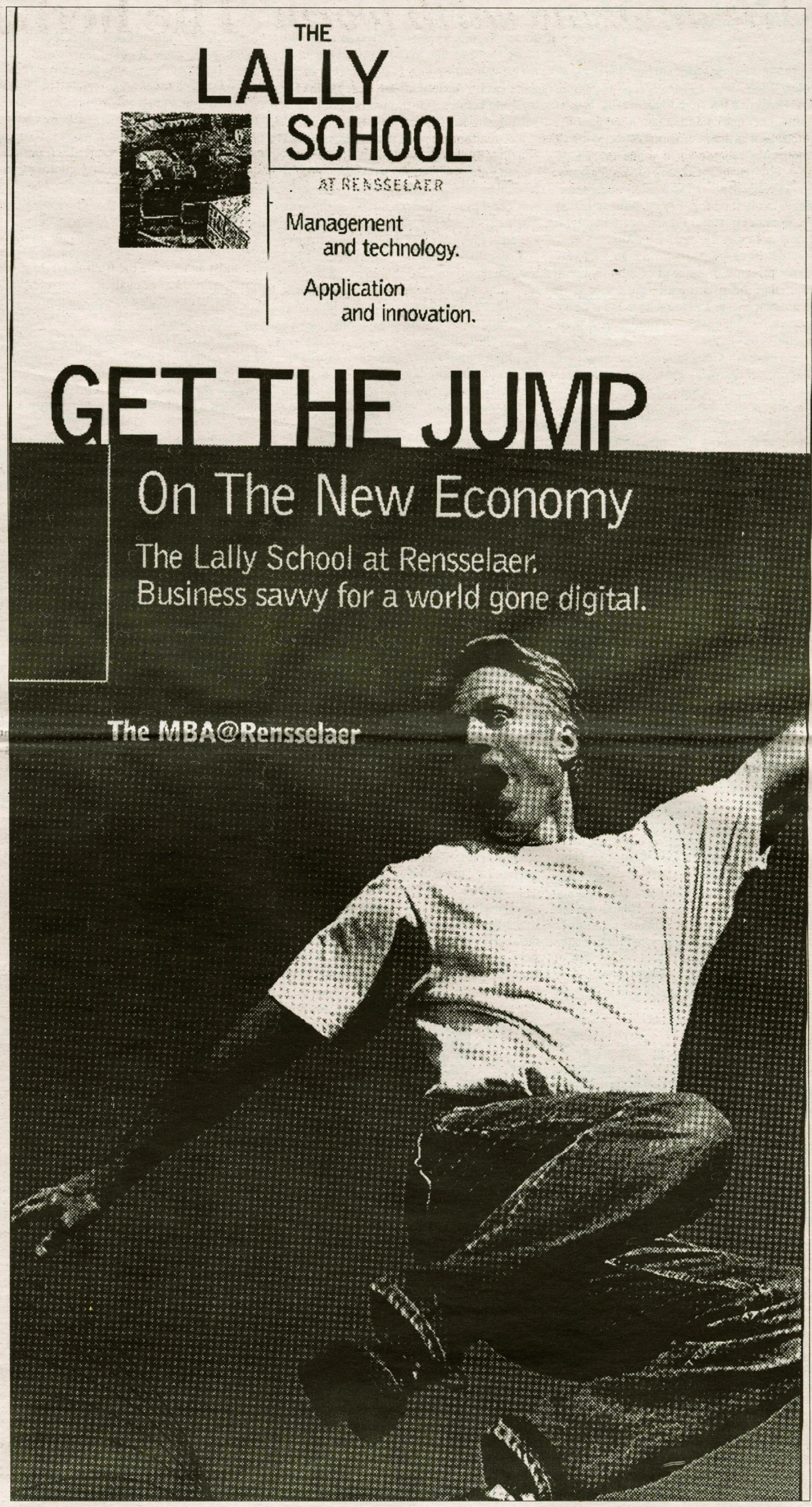
IOC vice president Dick Pound said the Greeks are "running out of time." Moving the games was technically feasible, he said. "It would have to be a major crisis," Pound said.

There have been published reports suggesting that the IOC could move the games to Seoul, which staged the 1988 Summer Olympics.

Rogge said the Greeks must speed up the decision-making process. He listed problems in accommodations, traffic, security, communications, construction, venues and infrastructure.

Organizers also were cited for lack of communication with other Olympic federations.

George Leventis, director general of Olympic works for Athens, said, "Perhaps this is just what is needed to jump-start the whole process and get things moving now that the elections are behind us."



Rugby Exiles Reach Final Four in Beast of the East

By Matt Glassman '00
SPORTS WRITER

The men's rugby team traveled to Newport, Rhode Island last weekend to play in the Beast of the East tournament, the largest collegiate rugby tournament in the nation.

Consisting of 32 teams and 2 days of rugby, the tournament is a grueling battle that requires the champion to win 5 games.

The Exiles fared extremely well, making it to the final four before being defeated by the mighty Coast Guard Academy, who went on to win the championship.

Co-captain Ethan Horvitz said, "I was extremely proud of our guys this weekend. We were the only team in the tournament without a coach, and to make it as far as we did was a tremendous accomplishment and a credit to our guys."

The Exiles began the tournament on Saturday morning against Northeastern.

With many of the team's seniors arriving after a sleepless night of partying at the senior formal, the team relied on some of its younger players to pick up the slack in the first game.

Clearly overmatched from the beginning, Northeastern never gave the Exiles a fight. Ray Ash '02, Paul Ryan '02, and Ben Myers '00 put in three quick tries in the first half, and strong pack play from Tom Hare '03 and Matt Earle '00 allowed the Exiles to cruise to a 30-0 halftime lead.

The second half featured many younger Exiles, as the veterans took the opportunity to rest and prepare for the next game. Kevin Brown '02 added a late try for the Exiles, who won by a final of 35-5.

In the second round, the Exiles came head to head with the defending tournament champions, Naval Prep.

Unfazed by their coaching staff and fancy uniforms, the Exiles came out quickly and scored a quick try when Matt Glassman '00 broke free and then found Ryan on the wing for a 5-0 lead.

Naval Prep quickly answered with two tries and some solid defense to take a 12-5 halftime lead.

At halftime, the Exiles regrouped and got fired up. Myers commented, "We convinced ourselves that we were not going to lose this game."

The Exiles came out strong in the second half. At the five-minute mark, Myers gave a great kick, chased down the fullback, and won the ball at the Naval Prep three-meter line. Minutes later, Myers got free on the wing and scored to pull the Exiles within two, 12-10. With a large crowd of fans now cheering for the Exiles, the momentum had clearly shifted.

Five minutes later, scrumhalf Dan Egan '03 faked a pass and broke the line, dishing off to Glassman, who found Mann on his left for the score, giving the Exiles back the lead, 17-12.

The defense held strong against several attacks the rest of the way, and Myers added another try down the stretch, giving the Exiles a huge win over a top team, 22-12.

On Sunday morning, the Exiles awoke early to play their quarterfinal game against Rhode Island. The game was a defensive struggle for most of the first half, with strong pack play from both sides.

Matt Millett '02 and Pete Shelton '00 played strong at the flank, and Rich Waite '03 showed increased tenacity at hooker.

With less than a minute left in the half, the backs got the ball out to Ryan, who broke the URI line and found Glassman on the wing for the score and a 5-0 halftime lead.

The Exiles struck quickly in the second half, as the pack worked well and capped off a long drive with a try by Horvitz.

Although URI struck back quickly with a try, the game seemed out of reach. Andrew Orzel '00 added a penalty kick for a 13-5 lead, and that's how it ended. The Exiles had advanced to the Final Four.

The Final Four consisted of Coast Guard, Providence, Central Connecticut, and the Exiles. The Exiles drew Coast Guard, and as play began, quickly realized they were up against very stiff competition.

The Coast Guard pack was strong and their backs were tough. They quickly ran the ball hard against the Exiles and took a 15-0 halftime lead off superior pack play.

They also capitalized on sloppy back play by the Exiles, a result of overall fatigue, which apparently was not affecting the service men as much.

The second half was more of the same, as the Coast Guard wore the Exiles down for several more tries. Late in the half Shelton got over for a try off some solid pack passing, but it was all the Exiles could muster, as they fell 32-5.

Beaten, but not down, the Exiles held their heads high knowing they had gone beyond all expectations in making the Final Four.

Co-captain Benny Mann '00 commented, "This was a great tournament for us, especially the victory over Naval Prep. We are really happy with the results this weekend."

Many coaches at the tournament were equally impressed, and commented often on the great play of Myers, Orzel, and especially the freshman scrumhalf Egan, who continually played great defense while managing the Exile attack.

Come watch the Exiles at home this weekend, as they prepare to take on some local competition on Saturday afternoon.

Defense Struggles as Baseball Loses Three out of Four

By Art McCann '00
SPORTS WRITER

Last weekend the men's baseball team won one game and lost three.

Early Saturday afternoon, after beating Utica College 7-4 in the annual Jackie Robinson game, the Continentals and their upbeat fans had hopes of a winning weekend.

The weather was beautiful, the fans brought out their barbecues, and Hamilton was looking good behind the power hitting of Brian Grady '00.

Unfortunately, Hamilton dropped three straight games, including two losses to Hartwick College, and concluded the weekend with a season record of 4-12.

Hamilton is not playing well defensively. In Sunday's first game, Hamilton led 9-5 in the sixth inning before losing, 11-5. In the second game, Hamilton led 4-2 before giving up eight straight runs and losing 10-4. Losing two games to Hartwick is terribly frustrating for the Continentals.

PHOTO BY DARREN BLOCK '01

Pitcher Andy Berman '01 leads the defensive side of the struggling men's baseball team.

Grady continues to lead Hamilton's offense. Over the weekend Grady hit two-home runs, raising his season total to four, and he raised his batting average to a team high .392 to go with 14 RBI's.

Freshman Semi Taylor also hit two home runs for the Continentals. Taylor's emergence gives Hamilton four legitimate homerun threats in Grady, Taylor, and the senior catcher/designated hitter combination of Dino Mazzotta and Nick Moore. But again, hitting is not the problem.

The rest of the UCAA faces the same meteorological problems as Hamilton. As the weather becomes more consistent, Hamilton's fielding should, and must, become equally consistent.

The Continental pitchers must throw strikes and the fielders have to make the plays.

The team is made up of good athletes who know how to play and who love the game. A couple of wins in a row are not too much to ask for.

On Thursday, April 20, Hamilton travels to Union College for a doubleheader.

On Friday and Saturday Hamilton plays host to R.I.T. and the University of Rochester, respectively.

The whole campus is counting on some wins, and this team can deliver them. It is time for a win streak.

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Women's Track Claims 2nd at UR Invitational

By Michael Everhart '02
SPORTS WRITER

This spring one word can be used to describe the weather in upstate New York- inconsistent.

After competing at the UCAA Championships two weeks ago in conditions one might expect in February, the women's track and field team finished second behind SUNY Geneseo in the University of Rochester Invitational last weekend under clear skies and 80 degree weather.

As Coach Ellen Hull noted, "It was nice to have great weather after terrible weather the week before."

Maggie Hanson '02 led the team with a first place finish in the 3000m run with a time of 10:06.81, which automatically qualified her for the NCAA Championships and broke the previous Hamilton record that she had set.

Julie Elmuccio '03 continued her success this season by setting three Hamilton records and qualifying for the NYSCTC Championships in the 100m hurdles, the triple jump, and the long jump.

Jen Cammarano '03 also finished first in the 800m run with a time of 2:21.14, and was joined by Amanda Chase '03, who finished fourth with a time of 2:25.97.

In the other distance event Annie Toth '02 and Kate Nelson '01 finished first and fifth, respectively, with times of 18:16.01 and 20:39.21.

Co-captain Lynne Myrth '01 said about the meet, "The Invitational meet at Rochester went really well. As a team we are really happy to have Annie [Toth] back from her injury, but are also missing the talents of Emily [Scursso], who is out for the season with an injury. I was very pleased with our second place finish. Although we would have liked to win, you win some, you lose some."

In the field events Sherri Hamlette '01 finished first and fifth in the hammer throw and shotput, respectively, with distances of 40.58m and 10.16m. Her performance in the hammer throw qualified her for NYSCTC's.

Hamlette said, "The field event performers stepped it up. It was the best group performance in my career."

In the triple jump Liz Casey '03 joined Elmuccio by finishing fifth with a distance of 9.81m. Kate Clark '02 finished second in the javelin throw, qualifying her for NYSCTC's, with a distance of 29.08m, and finished fifth in the high jump with a height of 1.47m.

In the sprint events Andrea Stroud '03 finished first in the 400m hurdles and also qualified for NYSCTC's with a time of 1:11.08.

Clark joined Elmuccio in the 100m hurdles with a third place finish, qualifying her for NYSCTC's as well.

In the 200m dash Roxanne Hoek '03 finished third with a time of 27.62 seconds. Hoek also finished second in the 100m dash and qualified for NYSCTC's with a time of 13.1 seconds. Out of the three relays, Hamilton finished second in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays and won the 4x800m relay.

Today the team competes at RPI against RPI, Union, St. Lawrence, SUNY Plattsburgh, and Hartwick. It is looking to avenge its loss to St. Lawrence at UCAA's.

Men's Tennis Shows Signs of Improvement

By Andy Horner '03
SPORTS WRITER

For the Hamilton men's tennis team, a season in which improvement was the goal is already a success.

As the youthful team, comprised only of freshmen and sophomores, continues through their schedule, the improvements in individual and overall play are obvious.

In the last two weeks, Hamilton has lost a closely contested five-hour match against RPI, played well in a 7-0 loss at dominant Skidmore, notched a convincing 6-1 win at home against Hartwick, and also experienced a highly successful outing at the UCAA tournament this past weekend.

In the three games before the UCAA tournament, improvement was obvious in each match.

During the RPI match, the men once again struggled in doubles play, allowing RPI to win the doubles point.

However, Arnab Chanda '03 then defeated his opponent in the sixth spot, and Ash Pajoohi '02 won in three sets in the third spot. Sean Fair '03, Peter Tucker '02, and Ryan Thorpe '02 all lost close matches, in the fifth, second, and first spots, respectively.

This allowed RPI to escape with a 5-2 victory in a match in which the Hamilton men showed every sign of being able to compete successfully.

Coach Bill Austin, despite the loss, was happy with the outcome, as he commented, "All in all, a real good match."

The match at Skidmore was an opportunity for further improvement as the Hamilton men faced what Austin described as a "very solid team, from top to bottom." Skidmore's more experienced players notched a victory in each match, but the Hamilton squad was pleased to gain valuable experience.

As Tucker said, "It was good to play against players of that caliber."

This positive attitude paid dividends almost immediately, as Hamilton easily defeated visiting Hartwick.

However, the team knew that there was no time to congratulate each other, as the upcoming UCAA championships would feature a first round match-up against perennial powerhouse SLU.

In the match against SLU, the sixth seeded Hamilton men tightly contested each individual game.

The match hung in the balance for some time before SLU finally managed to defeat the underdog Hamilton team with a 4-3 victory.

Pleased with their impressive performance against the third seeded SLU team, Hamilton moved into the consolation bracket confident of their ability to win.

This confidence was apparent in a 5-2 victory over Union, in which the Continentals won the doubles point.

The men then moved into a final showdown with the fifth seeded Vassar team. They attacked Vassar with momentum and confidence on their side, and saw this aggressive strategy pay off with a 6-1 upset of their highly skilled opponents.

Once again in the Vassar match, Hamilton played exceptionally well in doubles play, and took the point.

The improvement displayed in the overall and doubles play prompted Coach Austin to comment, "Suffice to say we are improving in leaps and bounds."

After a successful weekend, the team was pleased with its performance, but the desire to further improve remained.

With matches at home against Ithaca and Lemoyne this weekend, the men's team looks to continue its winning ways, as the team has won three of its last four matches.

The team has already proved itself to be exciting and competitive in its matches. The men's tennis team now seems poised to take their individual and team play to the next level in the coming weeks.

Men's Golf Wins Opener

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The golf team, attempting to add to its improvement in the late fall and recapture its national ranking from the 1998-1999 season, opened its season auspiciously by winning the Hamilton Spring Tee-Off Tournament held at the Skenandoa golf course in Clinton on April 7th.

The team's score of 330 placed it well ahead of second place St. Lawrence and local rivals Utica College and SUNY College of Technology.

Although overall individual scores were higher than normal due to the soggy conditions, each player on the Hamilton squad contributed a respectable score.

The Continentals were led by captain Matt DiTamio '01, an All-New England District player in '98-'99, who tied for medalist with an 81.

Senior Jamie Harding followed with an 82, while fellow senior Corey Giroux and Andy Wiechemann '02 each contributed 85s. Sophomore Andy Collier's 86 rounded out the scoring in a successful start to the season for the Continentals.

Unfortunately, the team did not do as well against tougher New England competition when it journeyed to national powerhouse Skidmore's spring invitational in Saratoga on Wednesday.

Skidmore, with scores of 72, 73, 73 and 75, shot an outstanding293 to run away with the tournament.

Fireshman star and former New York State Junior Champion, Ben Bates, led the field with a 72.

Too many Hamilton players were unable to keep the ball in play on the tight fairways of the McGregor Links course, as the Continentals were could do no better than 8th with a score of 349.

This score was well behind those of NESCAC rivals Amherst (310), Williams (311), and Middlebury (335).

The bright spots for Hamilton included a 77 by Tyler Leach '02, who placed 9th in the strong field of 64 golfers, and the continued solid play by Collier.

The team, still ranked among the top ten Division 3 golf teams in New England, travels to Williams this weekend to play in the District Championship.

The Continentals, who have still finished ahead of eight of the fifteen teams they have faced this spring, hopes to rebound from this past weekend and show they can compete with some of the better squads in the region.

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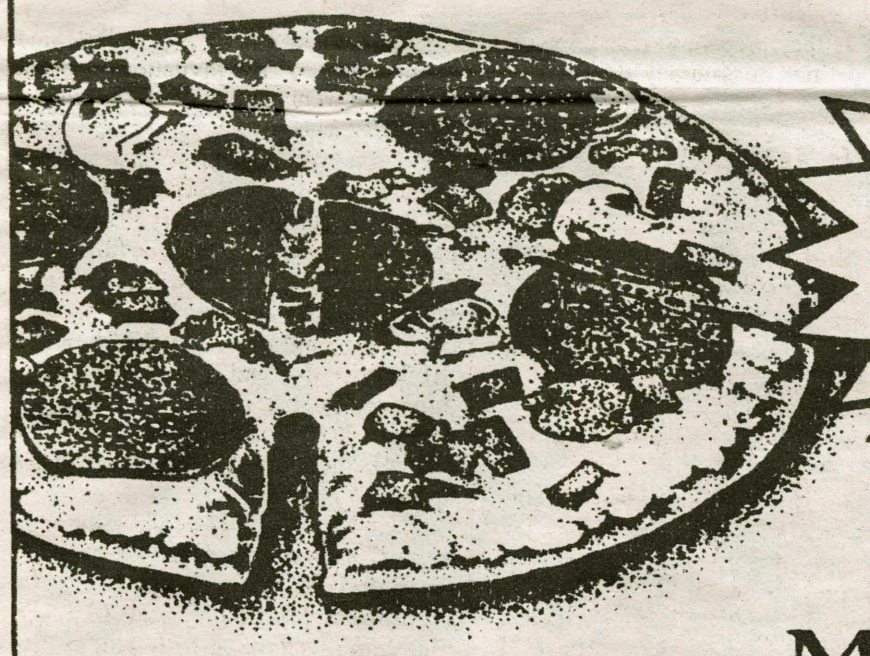

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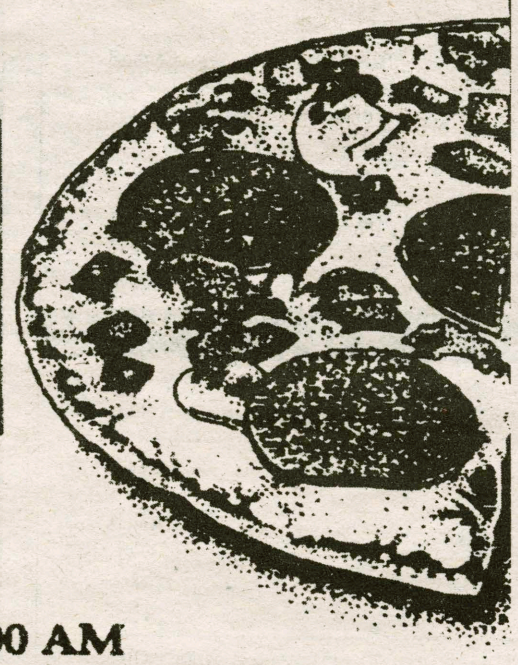

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Softball Sweeps Utica in Doubleheader

By Brenna Chiaputti '02
SPORTS WRITER

The warm weather could have had something to do with it. Or maybe it was the home field advantage—the fans were into it.

Or perhaps Utica/Rome just had a bad day. Most likely though, Hamilton's two game sweep over Utica resulted from a combination of the team's hard work and persistence this season.

The bats were connecting with most everything Utica had to offer, the team showed no mercy in the field and the pitching was quality.

This is what we sports fans like to call, "putting it all together!"

In the opener, Hamilton went on something of a home run binge.

Karen Pogonowski '02 and Elizabeth Dunn '01 sent two each over the fence. Abby McDermott '01 also knocked one out to make it five total home runs in the first game alone.

The first game ended with the score 18-5 Continentals in the fifth after the eight-run rule was put into effect.

Throughout the doubleheader there was an array of contributors all through the lineup. Freshman Heather Hoffay scored two runs and stole two bases.

Korey O'Malley '01 also came up big, going 6 for 8 with three doubles, four RBI's, three stolen bases and scoring three runs.

The seniors also added some firepower. Carolyn Fichera, in what Coach Susan Keller described as "her best game of the season," went 6 for 7, had three doubles and contributed five RBI's.

One of her RBI's was the game-winning hit in game two, which was much more of a nail biter than the first game, as the Continentals won 10-9.

"There are so many things that go into hitting but confidence is a big part. By the end of the second game I was confident enough to know that I could bat in the winning run," says Fichera.

Also, Heather Hopkins '00 was walked three times and successfully executed three sacrifice bunts.

In game two one of these bunts was a crucial play in ensuring Hamilton's victory.

Coach Keller described the play enthusiastically as an example of "everyone working together to make it happen."

In the bottom of the seventh in the second game, Utica/Rome and Hamiton were tied 9-9. After Dunn was walked she was able to steal second.

Hopkins' bunt put Dunn in scoring position and Fichera was able to bat her in for the game-winning run.

Keller said, "It was perfect execution by the whole team."

As usual the pitching and catching team of Pogonowski and McDermott played a large role in the team's success. McDermott allowed no passed balls and Pogonowski threw no wild pitches in the first game.

In game two, Erin Thorkilson '02 came in to relieve. "Erin did a great job of keeping us in the game. Pogonowski was able to get a rest and she came back in the game even stronger so that we could close the door on them," said Coach Perry Nizzi.

When asked about the discrepancy between the scores of the first and second game, Keller attributed it to errors.

In the first game Hamilton only had one error whereas in the second they committed four.

"They also used a pitcher [in game 2] that didn't give us as much to hit," says Keller.

Despite the difference in runs, Hamiton came out on top and passed an important test.

"When a game is that close every little play matters. We needed to come together in order to win the second game and we did," said Fichera.

All in all, Saturday's doubleheader was a success both strategically and talent-wise. The team showed that they could overpower a team and take control and also come together when the game got close.

Team members and coaches agree that this weekend's games were essential in terms of boosting the girls' confidence for the rest of the season.

"This game was the first reward the girls have seen on paper for their work. I think it will be a great confidence boost for them and just what they need to do well against the rest of the schedule,' Nizzi concluded.

Hopefully the Continentals can continue to find success this weekend now that they have something to build on. Continued warm weather wouldn't be bad either.

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S LACROSSE
4-8
WOMEN'S LACROSSE
9-2
BASEBALL
4-12
SOFTBALL
3-14
MEN'S TENNIS
2-3
MEN'S CREW
1-0
WOMEN'S CREW
1-0

Beat the Experts

Each pick has been selected to win contest outright. *If any given game ends in a tie, that game is thrown out of the lineup. Beat the "Experts"* is by no means associated with organized gambling on professional or college sports. Whichever Guest Handicapper posts the best winning percentage during their week will be selected as *Hamilton's Athlete of the Week* (honorary) in the final issue of this semester and will be entitled to all the perks therein, namely an all-expense paid dinner with our devilishly handsome Editors, Peter and David, as well as his or her picture in *The Spectator.*

Specially Selected Sporting Events	**Peter Ringel** *Spectator Managing Editor* **Last Week: 9-3 To date: 63-33**	**David Zane** *Spectator Editor-in-Chief* **Last Week: 7-5 To date: 54-42**	**Karen Hollands** *Athletics Lacrosse Coach* **Last Week: 9-3 To date: 62-34**	**Jimmy Driggs** *Junior Guest #10* Last Week's Guest: **Julian Scurci 7-5**
MLB				
Cleveland at Boston 4/22	Red Sox	Indians	Indians	Indians
NY Yankees at Toronto 4/22	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees	Yankees
Detroit at Chi.White Sox 4/22	White Sox	White Sox	White Sox	White Sox
Baltimore at Oakland 4/22	Orioles	A's	Orioles	A's
Colorado at St.Louis 4/22	Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals
Pittsburgh at Atlanta 4/22	Braves	Braves	Braves	Braves
San Diego at Houston 4/22	Astros	Astros	Astros	Astros
Philladelphia at Florida 4/23	Phillies	Marlins	Phillies	Marlins
Kansas City at Seattle 4/23	Royals	Royals	Royals	Mariners
NBA Playoffs				
Miami vs. Detroit 4/22	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat
San Antonio vs. Phoenix 4/22	Spurs	Spurs	Suns	Spurs
New York vs. Toronto 4/23	Knicks	Knicks	Knicks	Knicks
LA Lakers vs. Sacramento 4/23	Lakers	Lakers	Lakers	Lakers

If you think that you can beat these "experts," drop us a line and we will try to get you in. Write "I can beat the experts" on a piece of paper and add your name, then fold it and address it to the sports editor at *The Spectator.* Drop it in campus mail and if you're randomly selected, you'll quickly receive a form for you to make your picks.

Take a gourmet chef like Tony Gurdo and put him together with America's favorite Italian foods and you have the delicious pizza to be discovered at ANTONIO'S HOMETOWN PIZZA AND SPECIALTIES. After fifteen years building and maintaining a well known Italian gourmet Trattoria, Tony has switched to hometown pizza. He offers regular or wheat dough on all pizza. You may choose from a variety of toppings for regular pizza or from a list of mouth watering combinations on gourmet pizzas. Enjoy garlic pizza, tomato pie, wings, a selection of salads, and on Friday, a fish fry all day and evening. There is beer on tap in the cozy restaurant area and wine and soda are available.

ANTONIO'S is open Tuesday, 4 PM to 10PM, Wednesday and Thursday 11AM to 10PM, Friday 11AM to 11PM, Saturday 4 PM to 11PM and Sunday 4 PM to 10 PM. Call ahead to 853-3556 to have your pizza waiting for pick-up or to be savored inside the cafe at the Clinton Shopping Center on Route 12B south of the center of the Village.

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Baseball: Rocker Returns as Ripken Reaches 3000 Hits

Whoever says that baseball isn't exciting in April should have tuned in for the Yankees game last Monday against Texas. No other sport can give you that kind of drama on a regular basis, but people still call baseball "boring."

As a side note, does anybody find Johnny Oates hilarious when he talks about the Yankees? Anyhow, as usual, here are some thoughts on the sporting world this week:

MATT GLASSMAN

Riding the Pine

Rocker n' roll - John Rocker returns to baseball this week, and it should be a spectacle. The Braves are certainly glad to have him back in uniform.

Their bullpen has posted horrible numbers in his absence: a combined ERA of 4.82, a number of blown saves, and an obvious lack of ability to finish off games.

Rocker's intense attitude and great fastball are exactly what the bullpen needs to get a jump-start from their current condition.

It's now also clear that Rocker's return will be cheered in Atlanta, both for his ability and for the city's general support of him, but it will be a different story when the Braves take to the road next week.

One date looming in the future is June 29th, when the Braves make their first trip to New York to play the Mets.

Already, fictitious "John Rocker battery day" flyers have been circulating at Shea, and an ugly confrontation between Rocker and New York fans is not out of the realm of possibility.

Violent fan action is nothing new in New York, or baseball in general; anyone remember what people used to throw at Jose Canseco on a regular basis?

Batteries, ball bearings, and even the occasional knife found their way into the outfield.

Look for beefed up security at the non-Atlanta ballparks Rocker visits in the coming weeks, but also look for some incidents to occur, as I suspect many fans will take advantage of the situation to justify ridiculous behavior.

Enlisted men- Once again this year, a large number of underclassmen have decided to leave school and enter the NBA draft, continuing a trend that I for one would like to see reversed.

Remember the days when you had to show financial hardship (a la Magic Johnson in 1979) to enter the draft early from college? Seems like a distant memory.

How about when you at least had to justify leaving back in the early 90's? It's all too clear to me that the current generation of players puts absolutely no value on their education, viewing college more as a "minor league" than a chance to ride basketball to a diploma.

And many, including newly declared Khalid El-Amin, just aren't ready for the NBA. Is it any wonder that shooting percentages in the NBA are down every year?

No one bothers to finish working on their jump shot anymore. Jason Kidd is horrible. Jason Williams is worse. Both would be so much better had they stayed in school.

Let's stop this nonsense of using college to polish your game halfway for a year or two. Leaving college early is bad for the players, bad for the fans, and bad for the NCAA.

And there is an easy fix: allow no one who goes to college to play in the NBA unless they either graduate or spend four years trying.

Yeah, a real novelty, right? That was the system until about 15 years ago.

Hey, I know school is not for everyone. Kids who don't want to try college can still go straight from high school. But let's make college what it's supposed to be, not some two year launching pad for the pros.

Let's hope the NBA and NCAA can work out an arrangement to keep kids in school for longer than it takes for them to perfect (or half-perfect) their jumper.

Hot to trot - Moving back to baseball, there are some players you might want to note that are absolutely on fire these days: Jim Edmonds, Carl Everett, Frank Thomas, Darin Erstad, Vladimir Guerrero, and Fernando Vina.

I suspect that the Carl Everett trade has Red Sox fans smiling, and almost nothing is going to stop Vlad from getting the NL MVP.

Frank Thomas seems to be living up to his SI cover, and Vina seems to be overshadowing Big Mac right now in St. Louis.

Mark it down - The Vikings continued their bad off-season moves with a horrible performance on draft day. They won't be making the playoffs anytime soon.

Final Words - Cal Ripken reached 3,000 hits last weekend to become only the 24th major leaguer to surpass that milestone...

Mike Hampton lost again for the Mets, bringing him to 0-3 for the season. Makes you wonder how many stolen bases Roger Cedano has...

Did Kevin Elster really hit 3 homers in a game last week, or did I dream that? He had about three homes total in his Mets career...

Women's Lacrosse Wins Seven Straight

Seniors Last Home Game One to Remember

By Chris Preston '03
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The women's lacrosse team is starting to make things look easy.

Having won four straight heading into last weekend's home stand against Clarkson and St. Lawrence, the women's lacrosse team added two more impressive victories as they demolished both squads.

In extending their winning streak to an impressive six games, the Continentals disposed of the two UCAA rivals in a seemingly effortless fashion.

In Friday's game at Love Field, a 17-4 trouncing of UCAA bottomfeeder Clarkson, the Continentals received significant contributions from many players.

Freshman Courtney Higgins had her best game to date, leading the team in scoring with four goals.

Kristen Engster '01 was equally stellar, chipping in three goals, while senior co-captain Shannon Mercier had her usual solid game with two goals and an assist.

But the star of the weekend was without a doubt Sarah Gloo '01. At home, against a tough St. Lawrence team on Saturday, Gloo scored an amazing eight goals en route to a 19-9 Continental victory.

Gloo's outstanding offensive performance earned her both NYSWCAA and NESCAC player of the week, a remarkable achievement against an opponent which Coach Karen Hollands called "a predominantly strong team."

Of course, Gloo was not alone in her efforts. In addition to Gloo's superhuman efforts, Molly Plummer '03 posted a solid all around performance, with three goals and two assists.

While the victory over St. Lawrence didn't come as easily as their rout of lowly Clarkson did the day before, the Continentals just made everything look routine in the 19-9 win.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WOMEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

Co-captain Shannon Mercier '00 drives by a defenseman to score another goal for the Continentals. The women's lacrosse team improved its record to 9-2 with a win in its last regular season home game yesterday.

And this time it wasn't due to weak opposition. St. Lawrence came in with a record of 5-3 and with the reputation of being one of the better teams in the league year in and year out.

As Hollands pointed out, the Continentals' domination as of late is no accident. "We're a solid team, I expected us to be solid. These kids love lacrosse."

During the course of this current six game winning streak, which has stretched the team's record to a glossy 9-2, the Continentals have shown they are capable of not only blowing out the opposition but can also win the close ones.

In the first three games of their winning streak—versus Ithaca, at Skidmore, and at RPI—the Continentals scored only six more total goals than their opponents.

The last three wins (at home against Oneonta, Clarkson, and St. Lawrence) have been by a combined 42 points, with an overall score of 58-16!

Such versatility proves that these Continentals can win ugly and win pretty.

More importantly, it shows that they are only now hitting their stride, and are showing no signs of wearing down heading into the final two weeks.

As Hollands explained, "The season is short to begin with (only six weeks). They will never burn out because they are so well conditioned and have such a love for lacrosse."

When asked if she preferred winning by scoring with, say, 12 seconds left on the clock (as Caty Wakefield '01 did at RPI), or winning 17-4 as they did against Clarkson, Hollands smiled. "It certainly is nicer to win comfortably."

Yesterday, the Continentals extended their winning streak to seven as they again won comfortably, defeating Hartwick, 21-11, at Love Field.

This was the last home game for seniors Merier, Weatherly Ransdell, and Azure Davey, who scored her first goal of the season with only four seconds left.

Offensively, Gloo put on another spectacular performance. The defense also picked up their play against rival Hartwick, with Lauren Bruce '02 and Jenne Atherton '01 coming up big for the Continental. Both Bruce and Atherton were able to shut down Hartwick's leading scorers.

The victory came as a huge win for the Lady Continentals not only because it was senior day, but also because Hartwick came in with the reputation as always being one of the better teams in the nation.

This weekend the Continentals will try and get comfortable again as they play at Rochester, attempting to further extend their impressive win streak.

Wins over Rochester and Union, who they face on Monday will ensure post - season play for the Continentals, and especially the seniors.

As Hollands warned players and parents last week, "Be prepared - if I have my way, we'll be playing on graduation."

Sports

Murphy Asked to Step Down

Tobin orders Murphy: Hit the road Tom

Murphy Removed *continued from page1*

"I don't understand why the President would want to go in a new direction when we're already going in the right direction. Why would you not stay with the status quo?"

Gilmartin also added that the *Sears Cup* rankings recently came out and Hamilton is 19th in the country. The ranking is the highest Hamilton has ever been and is a testament to Murphy's hard work and leadership.

The *Sears Cup* is a program that honors institutions achieving success in both men's and women's sports.

Only a few short weeks ago, Director of Communications and Development Mike Debraggio made a point to *The Spectator* about the success Hamilton has enjoyed this year in athletics.

Debraggio explained Hamilton's tremendous move up in the *Sears Cup* rankings and seemed happy with the Athletic Department.

Tobin met with the entire athletic department on Wednesday April 12th and told them that he was making the change because Hamilton needed a change of direction and to go down a different path. Tobin added that Thompson and Murphy would go down the same path over the next two years.

As a result, one staff member asked Tobin: if Thompson and Murphy will go down the same path over the next two years, why would you make this change? Tobin did not answer the question directly.

Yes, the President of Hamilton has the authority to replace anyone he wants (as far as *The Spectator* understands), but to make such a monumental decision without listening to the opinion of any staff member in athletics leaves many people dumbfounded.

This would be similar to Tobin announcing that he was removing the head of the Chemistry Department without any specific reason and named a Chemistry professor as the new chairman of the department.

Does anyone believe that Tobin would have taken the same action in the Biology or Economics departments? It seems hard to believe that Tobin would remove anyone (but especially a department chair) and not hold some sort of search for a replacement.

In the Athletic Department alone this year, coaching vacancies have occurred and searches were held for all of them. When Steve Frank left his post as head football coach, an internal search was conducted.

Current staff members applied for the position such as football offensive coordinator and baseball coach Mike Davis.

In addition, a national or external search was also held, and the position was advertised and candidates sent resumes and some were granted interviews.

Ultimately, Tim Pendergast, the recruiting coordinator at the University of Memphis, was hired.

The same process has been used for both the women's soccer and the women's ice hockey coaching positions. With all that in mind, why was neither an internal or national search conducted for the most important job in the athletic department? Why the double standard? Why was there no process?

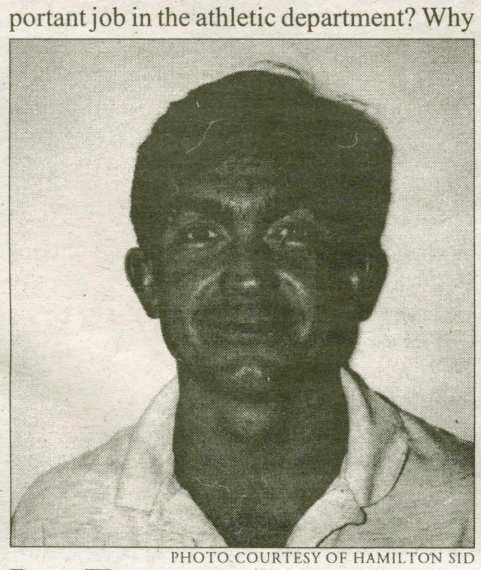

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON SID

Dave Thompson will be named Athletic Director starting in 2002.

"I think a lot of us are puzzled by this decision," said baseball coach Mike Davis. "I think this was done totally wrong, and it was very unprofessional. I'm upset with the reasons that were given because they make no sense."

Enter head Men's and Women's Swimming Coach Dave Thompson. Is he qualified to serve as Hamilton's Athletic Director? Maybe. But the point is that Hamilton should strive to get the best person for the AD position.

The way to do that is by advertising the position (perhaps first within the department) and then nationally.

This is not brain surgery. At least it shouldn't be. You look at the resumes of all interested parties and talk to a number of candidates and make a decision.

If Tobin wanted Murphy to step down, why not go to him and explain the real reasons he believes the department would be better without Murphy and discuss any concerns or problems that he had with Murphy's job performance?

But this was not done. No loyalty. Does Murphy not deserve to be consulted about a decision of such magnitude? After over 20 years as Athletic Director and 30 years of service to Hamilton, does Tobin not owe the athletic department some explanation other than "it's time [for a change]."?

Murphy is one of the senior Athletic Directors in the NESCAC and in the country. He is also one of the most respected and has been responsible for Hamilton gaining national recognition in athletics.

One coach believes, "A man who has worked here for 30 years deserves to retire with pride, class, and character. He's being forced to step down like he's done something wrong, but he's not being told what it is that he did wrong."

"I don't believe any other Athletic Director in the NESCAC would be treated the same way they have treated him," the coach continued.

Another major factor that comes into play is that Hamilton's athletic department is very young.

As many as six new head coaches may be in place by the beginning of the next school year. With Hamilton's expected move into the NESCAC in two years, many people believe that a senior administrator such as Murphy is especially needed.

Another coach questioned the selection of Thompson. "The Hamilton AD job is a premier, tough, job and you need a quality person in place. You need to seek input before you make a decision of that magnitude. The President was unprofessional in the way he went about making this decision."

Coach Phil Grady described Murphy as a great boss because, "He always lets you do your job and he doesn't second guess you. He always supports you no matter what and that's loyalty. When things were not going well for many people, he was there."

Another helpful thing Tobin should have done was to interview members of the Athletic Department and get their input on the job Murphy was doing.

Questions could have included any and all of the following: Is Murphy doing a good job as AD? Do you think the Athletic Department would be better served with someone other than Murphy leading it? Do you think it is time for Murphy to step down?

For argument's sake, if Tobin received indications that there were significant problems regarding Murphy (and there is no evidence that he did), then the next step should have been simple.

The President should have asked the people with complaints to identify current problems in the department and find out if they had solutions on how to improve the situations.

Hamilton's Sears Cup Standings during Murphy's era

1996 - 125TH

1997 - 116TH

1998 - 71ST

1999 - 20TH

Back to Dave Thompson. If Tobin was even thinking of hiring him as AD (and there is evidence that he was considering it for quite a while), the President should have asked members of the Athletic Department what they thought of the man who might end up as their future boss.

But again, there is no sign that Tobin ever talked to any coaches to get their opinions of Thompson.

The whole story gets even stranger because Thompson, a graduate of Colgate University, was offered the Head Swimming Coach position at his alma mater.

Murphy did not want to lose Thompson as swim coach because of his tremendous job leading the team to success over his tenure as coach since 1983.

Murphy approached Tobin about giving Thompson a substantial raise and giving him additional responsibilities to justify the pay increase.

Within a week, Tobin called Thompson and offered him the Athletic Director position. Thompson allegedly refused the position when it was first offered, but later changed his mind and called Tobin to accept the job.

Some staff members believe that Tobin made the change because he viewed Murphy as too powerful and holding too much clout at Hamilton.

As to what power or clout Murphy held as AD, no answer was given by anyone *The Spectator* spoke with. Others blame Dean of Admissions Richard (Rit) Fuller as being somewhat responsible for Murphy's removal.

These people believe that Fuller was tired of arguing with Murphy about the acceptable qualifications of prospective student-athletes.

Fuller denied he had any knowledge of the decision to replace Murphy.

Who did Tobin seek advice from when making this decision? The President admits he contacted some trustees, but would not specifically name them.

Speculation by many coaches and administrators contacted for this story named a few key trustees who they believed must have been made aware of Tobin's decision: Chairman of the Board Kevin Kennedy, Former Acting President Thomas Schwarz, and former Chairman of the Board Mac Bristol.

However, upon investigating the matter, *The Spectator* has learned that Kennedy was not fully aware of everything that would result from this decision, such as Thompson no longer serving as swim coach in 2002.

The Spectator has also learned that Bristol claims he did not know anything about the decision and that Carl Menges, another trustee, also says he knew nothing of Tobin's decision.

The bottom line is that this situation has turned into a public relations nightmare for Tobin. He has received a large number of emails from angry alumni and students. Many faculty members have also been trying to make sense of Tobin's decision.

Tom Murphy and Dave Thompson were both contacted for this story. Murphy was unavailable for comment. Thompson declined comment for this article.